

Jumbo Summer Fun Issue! ★ Free Scrapbook Poster!

American GirlTM

July/August 2005

\$4.95

22 Wacky Ways
to Get **Wet**

Take a
Giant **Quiz!**

Throw a
Cool **Party**

Enter a Silly
Contest

WOW!
Bonus posters,
crafts, games,
puzzles, and
MORE!

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Scrapbook Poster**

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to peek behind the scenes
of AG magazine!

Always get a parent's permission
before surfing the Web or giving out
your full name, address, or any
other personal info.



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Proud to Be an American Girl!™



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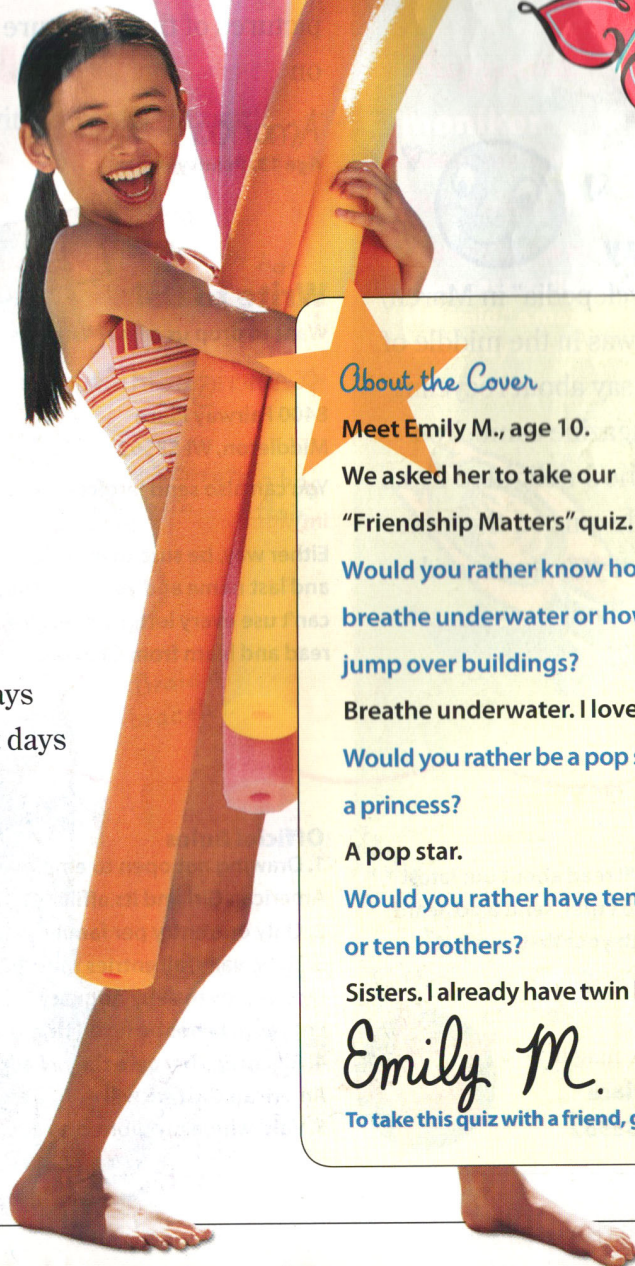
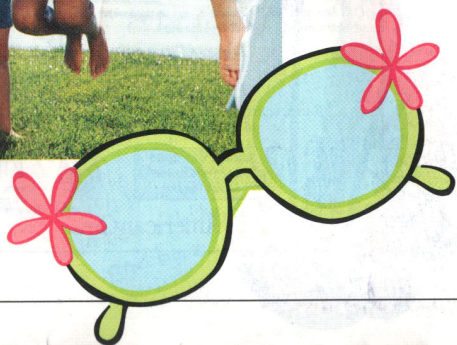
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Get Wet

Super splashy ways to cool off on hot days

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About the Cover

Meet Emily M., age 10.

We asked her to take our "Friendship Matters" quiz.

Would you rather know how to breathe underwater or how to jump over buildings?

Breathe underwater. I love swimming.

Would you rather be a pop star or a princess?

A pop star.

Would you rather have ten sisters or ten brothers?

Sisters. I already have twin brothers!

Emily M.

To take this quiz with a friend, go to page 20.



Letters from You



Poster Power

Thank you so much for putting posters in every issue of your magazine. I have a locker at school, and I hang them up inside. My friends think they are so cute!

Emily J.
Age 12, Louisiana



Earth Essay

I loved "Recyclopedia" in March/April 2005. I was in the middle of writing an essay about recycling when the magazine came. You can imagine how delighted I was to find a whole quiz on the topic. I used some of your facts, and they really helped!

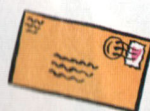
Ariel P. :-)
Age 12, California



Horse Tale

"Horse Crazy" in March/April was great. I have always wanted a horse, and now I understand how much work it takes to take care of one. I also loved the pictures of the miniature horse on americangirl.com.

Amanda D.
Age 13, Pennsylvania



Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

★ **American Girl magazine™**
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to im_agmag_editor@americangirl.com. Either way, be sure to include your first and last name and your birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

Win It!

On page 35, you'll read about our latest Win It! contest. To enter, send a postcard by August 15 with your first and last name and address to:

Win It!—J/A 05
★ **American Girl magazine™**
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Official Rules

1. Drawing not open to employees of American Girl and its affiliates.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by August 15, 2005. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed.
4. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
5. Void where prohibited by law.



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Winner of a 2005
Parents' Choice
Silver Award



The National
Magazine
Awards Finalist

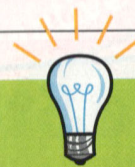
★ **American Girl™**

Girls

E X P R E S S

Fun for the Fourth

Make your Independence Day sparkle with patriotic pizzazz!



Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

All Correct?

Ever wonder where O.K. came from? Some experts say that in the 1830s, people thought it was funny to misspell words and then abbreviate them. O.K. stood for "oll korrekt," a poorly spelled "all correct."

Buzzword moniker



How to say it: MAHN-ih-kur

What it means: nickname

One way to use it: Erin's teammates called her "The Mermaid," a moniker she earned by winning so many swim races.



The buzzword is tucked into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 64.

Find It!



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

True Story

Kambria P. got to sing onstage with Shania Twain!

Dear American Girl,

My parents surprised me with tickets to a concert by Shania Twain, my favorite singer. Our seats were in the fourth row. I made a sign that read "Will sing for hugs," because I thought Shania might see it.

As she finished singing a song, she read my poster out loud to the audience. Then she said, "Why don't you come on up here?" I was shivering because I was so excited! I got up on the stage, and she handed me the microphone to sing. I sang two of her songs, and the crowd cheered really loudly. Shania gave me a hug and signed my poster before I went back to my parents.

I was probably the most confident person in the world that night. I have always wanted to be a singer, but singing with Shania Twain made me want it even more!

Sincerely,

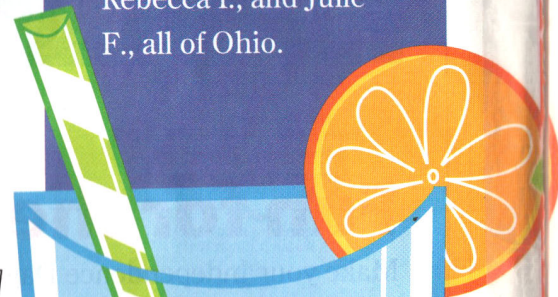
Kambria P.
Age 11, Arizona



Superstar Shania listens to Kambria.

Be Cool

July is National Ice Cream Month. You can celebrate with this frosty drink, sent to us by Meagan I., Rebecca I., and Julie F., all of Ohio.



Fruity Pizzazz

2 cups vanilla ice cream
1 cup orange soda
1 cup strawberries



Combine ingredients in a blender. Ask an adult to process at low speed for 15 seconds and then blend to desired thickness.

Serve your treat in a fancy glass, and dress it up with our cute fruit garnishes. Turn to page 38 for ideas.

Lunch Box

Try your favorite snacks frozen! Sliced fruit, yogurt, and sweets make cool treats.



Mix and match these frozen treats to make mini stackers. Try Oreo + Strawberry or Pineapple + Watermelon!

A Fin-tastic Story

Carly B. has a really splashy life—she helps take care of the dolphins that live in her backyard! Carly's parents study and train dolphins at a marine science center that is located on an island in the Caribbean Sea.

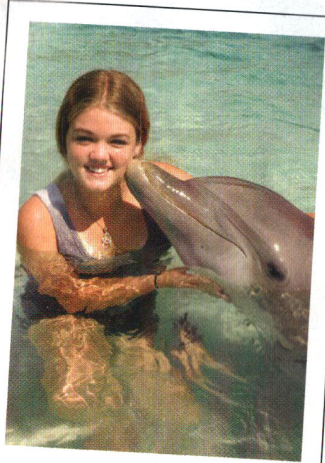
Carly, age 13, lives with her family near the center and has been around dolphins her whole life. She gets to help feed them

and is learning how to train them. She uses hand signals to ask the dolphins to talk, walk backward on their tail fins, or collect toys. "Every dolphin's personality is different, and it is just so much fun getting to know them," she says.

Carly plays with the dolphins when they're not learning. She goes scuba diving with them, and they give her rides when she

hangs onto their dorsal fins. She loves to let them zoom her through the water by pushing her feet.

"The most amazing part about working with the dolphins is when you're petting them and you realize how close you can get to these huge, wild animals," she says. "I am really lucky that I get to do this."



Carly loves her life at the beach.



The dolphins are really playful!

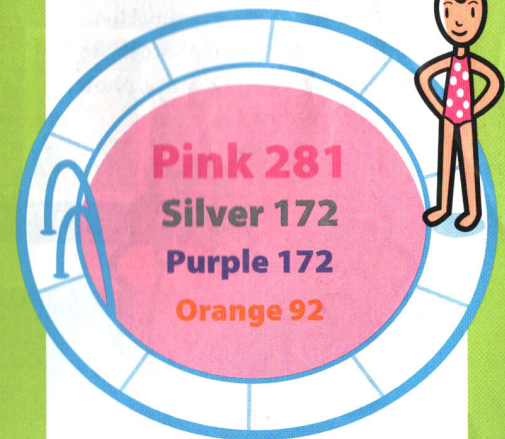
Creative Corner

Cute Clips

Cut out card. Flip over for directions.

AG Poll

In our March/April issue, we asked you about your fantasy swimming-pool color. Here's what you said:



Next question:

What's your favorite part of a holiday break? Circle your choice.

* **No homework**

* **No need to get dressed for school**

* **Later bedtime**

Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your first and last name, address, and birth date.



Cute Clips



Attach these clips to your tank top and start the **summer** in style! Find a cute appliqué at a craft or fabric store. Use glue to attach it to a plain hair clip. Let dry. Use one or two to **decorate** your tank!

Photos: Jamie Young

Help Wanted!

We want to hear your animal story! Does your dog know how to ring the doorbell when he wants to come in? Did you help rescue an injured baby deer? Does your family raise llamas? Do you and your pet look exactly alike? Do you know an animal hero? Send your letter—and photos!—to the address on page 2. Sorry, photos cannot be returned.



AG Art Gallery

Tropical animals inspired your artwork for summer!



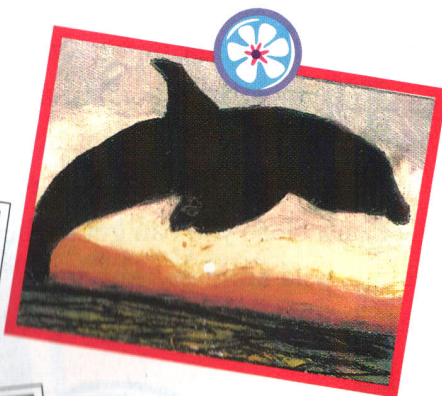
Princy P.
Age 11, New York



Morgan M.
Age 10, Massachusetts



Erin H.
Age 12, Michigan



Alyssa O.
Age 9, California



Mari C.
Age 10, Hawaii

We're looking for **artwork** for our gallery. Send a **color** copy of your original artwork to the address on page 2. **Sorry**, we can't return entries.

Miles of Smiles

Turn a travel toiletries case into a fun activity kit for a road trip.



My Favorite Kind of Day



The grass is green,
the sun is shining.

I get to my bike
in perfect timing.

I ride up a hill,
my legs are sore.

But I do it again
two times more.

Then I run
inside for lunch,
PB&J

is what I'll munch.
Mom takes us
to the pool.

I jump in—
how refreshing and cool.

We go home
after two hours.
Look! Here comes
a thundershower.



Mary Kate R.
Age 12, Pennsylvania

Shining Star

When Makenzie S. was seven, she learned that when some children in foster care have to move, they carry their belongings in plastic garbage bags. "Whatever would fit in there was what they could take. It was just terrible," Makenzie says.

So the Maryland girl decided to take action. She started Children to Children, a group that collects duffel bags for foster children. She works with volunteers to pack the bags with stuffed animals and kind notes. More than 36,000 bags have been distributed, and Makenzie, now age 14, has raised more than \$850,000 in donations for her cause.

Makenzie wants to send a bag to every child in the foster care system. Her goal is big, but she knows a trick for reaching it. "All you have to do is know that you can do it," she says. ★



You can shine, too.

Learn how to organize a duffel bag drive of your own by visiting Makenzie's Web site at childrentochildren.org.

Contest

Surf's Up!

We couldn't believe the waves of surfboards you sent in—more than 6,000!

In March, 47 people set a new world record by riding a wave together on the same surfboard.





New Contest: Design a Pet Dream Home

We know you love your pets, so show us what kind of pet palace you'd design! Would your dog's bone-shaped home have an indoor dog park and a petting machine? Would your cat's casa have pictures of mice on the walls and a goldfish pond? Send your drawings to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date.

Deadline: August 10, 2005. Winners will appear in the January/February 2006 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.



Lauren C.
Age 13, California



Angelica J.
Age 10, Illinois

Homesick?

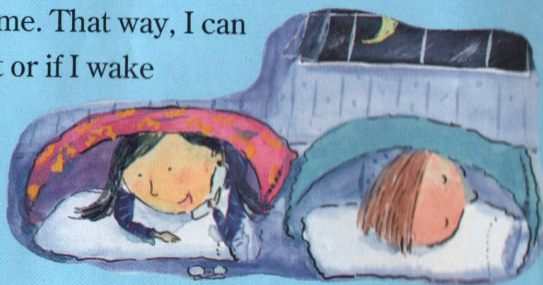
Say goodbye to being sad at camp or sleepovers. These readers tell us how they beat the blues once and for all!



Sometimes I get homesick when I have sleepovers with my friends. If my mom and dad don't need their cell phone while I'm gone, I take it with me. That way, I can

call to say good night or if I wake up homesick in the middle of the night.

Leah N.
Age 9, Pennsylvania



My Girl Scout troop sometimes goes on overnight

camping trips, and I always bring a picture of my parents. It makes me feel like they're close to me and watching over me.

Olivia L.
Age 9, Missouri



When I kept thinking about my family on a class

trip, I wrote in my journal every night. It really helped because I was able to get all of my thoughts of being homesick out of my head and then enjoy myself.

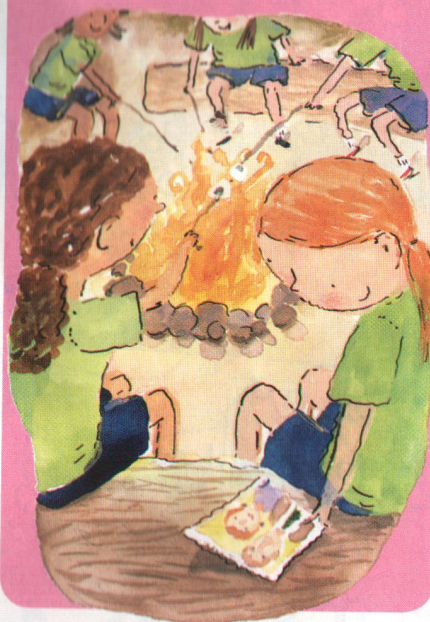
Claudia L.
Age 10, New Jersey



My best advice is to try to meet new friends.

I got homesick at a conference out of town once, but then I made a friend and we were laughing so much that I forgot all about being homesick.

Lauren B.
Age 12, California





When I got homesick at camp, I wanted to go

home. But I told myself that if I left, I might miss out on something that all of my friends would be talking about later.

Jenna H.
Age 9, Indiana

Big Truth
Stay busy.
You'll forget
all about
missing home!



At camp, I missed my cozy bed.

After a good cry, I felt better and realized it's O.K. to miss home. It also helped to learn that my friends get homesick, too.

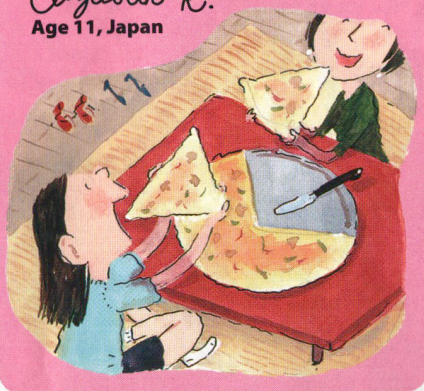
Gabby F.
Age 12, Massachusetts



Three years ago, my family moved from California

to Japan. When I get homesick, I write to one of my friends or grandparents. I also ask my mom to cook my favorite American foods, such as pizza and chocolate chip cookies. This always helps me feel better.

Elizabeth R.
Age 11, Japan



If you aren't comfortable being away from home

and get invited to a sleep-over, just go and have fun until bedtime. Then you can go home.

Madeleine M.
Age 11, New York

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Pet names.

Do you have a funny story about how your pet got its name? We know a family that found a stray cat behind a Firestone tire warehouse and named it Hotrock! (Fire = hot, stone = rock. Get it?) Does your family have a clever way to pick pet names? We'd love to know!

Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on page 2. Deadline: August 7, 2005. Some answers will appear in the January/February 2006 issue. ★





Spray and Stay

Challenge your friend to a hose down! Each person grabs a hose and stays in one place. The object is to give your friend the chills so she moves from her starting point—and the cool spray of the hose!

Get Wet



Spend the summer **getting soaked** at the pool or beach or in your **backyard** with these great water games!



Ice Block

Make a huge ice cube! Fill a well-rinsed cardboard milk carton with water and freeze it overnight. You can freeze tiny toys inside it, too. Challenge friends to melt it—using only their body, hands, face, and feet!

Balloon Toss

Throw a Frisbee in the yard and let it land. Provide a bucket of water balloons and have each player grab one. Players throw their balloons one by one, trying to get as close to the Frisbee as possible. Whoever throws her balloon the closest gets a point. Repeat the game until a player gets 10 points—she's the winner!

Wet Sponge Relay

Set two empty buckets on one side of the pool. Have players start on the other side and swim in inner tubes across the pool with sponges. Players must squeeze the sponge water into the bucket and swim back to pass the sponge to the next girl. The team that has the most water in their bucket after two minutes wins the game.

Obstacle Course

Set up an obstacle course in the yard. Jump over a towel, crawl through an inner tube, and skip under the sprinkler.



School's out, but you can relive recess **fun** by playing your favorite games in the **pool**. Some good ones to try are Red Light/Green Light, SPUD, and Tag. **You're It!**



Splish Splash

Divide into teams of two. Place a bucket full of water at one end of the yard. Place an empty bucket at the other end of the yard. Give each girl a paper cup. The first team of two has one minute to get as much water from the full bucket into the empty one by hopping back and forth. The trick is that the water must be carried in the cup—on her head! After one minute, place that team's bucket to the side and put an empty one in its place. Give each team a chance to fill their bucket. After all the teams have raced, see whose bucket has the most water.



Steady Hands

Two girls twirl a jump rope, and everyone else lines up holding equal-sized cups of water. Taking turns, everyone jumps rope 10 times. The winner is the girl with the most water left in her cup.

Water Creature Charades

Take turns pretending to be different water animals—anything from a dolphin diving in the waves, to a sea manatee, or an otter. See if your friends can guess which creature you are.



Three tips for cooling down quick!



1. Stand in the **yard** and dump a cup of water over your head.
2. Put your pillowcase in the **freezer** before bedtime.
3. Fill the tub with **cold** water and soak your feet!





Beach Ball Push

Have a race to see who can push a beach ball across the pool—with her nose—in the shortest amount of time.

I'm Stuffed

Choose two different girls to put on large sweat suits (ask mom or dad for these), and divide into two teams. Each team must try to stuff their girl's sweatshirt and pants full of the most water balloons in one minute. After the time is up, remove the balloons. Count to see who stuffed the most balloons (broken ones don't count!).



Simon Says Brrr!

Play Simon Says in the yard. When someone moves without hearing "Simon Says," she gets sprinkled with the hose!

T-shirt Swim

Divide into two teams and line up on the edge of the pool. Give each team a T-shirt. On "Go," the first player on each team puts on the T-shirt, jumps in, and swims to the other side of the pool. She touches the wall and swims back. When she reaches her team, she must remove the T-shirt and pass it to the next team member. That girl has to put it on and swim across the pool. The game continues until one team finishes first.

Over and Under

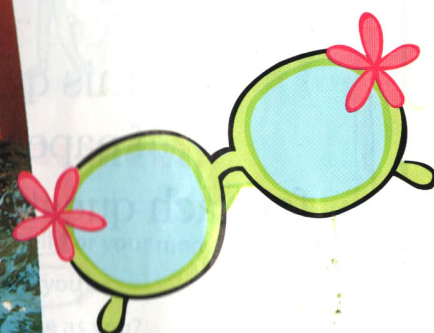
Have everyone get into two lines. Place a bucket of water at the front of each line and an empty bucket at the end of each line. The first person in line is given a sponge. She dips it in the water and passes it over her head to the person behind her. The next girl passes it under her legs to the person behind her. The sponge continues to be passed over and under until the last person in line has it. She squeezes the sponge into the empty bucket and runs to the front of the line. She starts the relay again by dipping the sponge in the water and passing it over her head. See how quickly you can fill the bucket of water as a team!





Noodle Races

Ride a bunch of noodles like a horse and race friends across the pool.



Play classic games like tic-tac-toe, hopscotch, and checkers on the **beach** by drawing in the sand and using **shells** as game pieces.

Frisbee Toss

Toss a Frisbee and try to land it in an inner tube that's floating in the pool.

Water Sports

Fill your yard with sprinklers, then play whatever sport you want, from soccer to Frisbee, while getting soaked. Now it's time to go outside and get wet! ★

Friendship Matters 

Would You Rather?

Try this quiz with a friend! Each of you numbers a piece of paper from 1 to 20. Your friend picks one answer for each question, and you write down what *you* think she'll pick. Then compare your answers!



* For more questions like these, go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine."

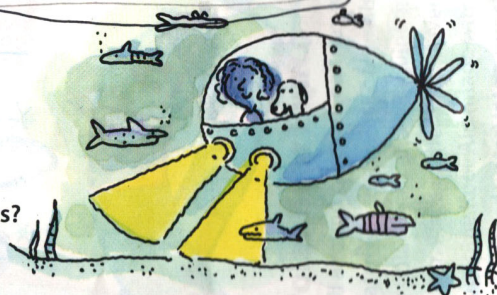
Would you rather be...

- 1...a pop star or a princess?
- 2...famous or brilliant?
- 3...a character in your favorite book or in your favorite movie?
- 4...the age you are now or 21 years old?



Would you rather meet...

- 5...a space alien or a unicorn?
- 6...your favorite teacher as a child or your mom as a child?
- 7...someone who looks just like you or someone who has the same name as you?
- 8...your great-great-great-great grandmother or your great-great-great-great grandchild?



Would you rather know...

- 9...how to talk to animals or how to fly?
- 10...how to become invisible or how to travel in time?
- 11...how to become very tiny or how to become a giant?
- 12...how to breathe underwater or how to jump over buildings?



Would you rather go...

- 13...on a trip to outer space or to the bottom of the sea?
- 14...parachuting or bungee jumping?
- 15...on vacation to a theme park or to a foreign country?
- 16...spend a night in a treehouse or in an igloo?

Would you rather have...

- 17...your own dance studio or a horse farm?
- 18...your story published or your painting in a museum?
- 19...an Olympic gold medal or a Guinness world record?
- 20...ten sisters or ten brothers? ★



We asked for your best party ideas, and—WOW!—did you plan some great get-togethers. We added to your ideas and came up with these...

Fabulous Parties!



Invitation

Fill a small baby-food jar with water, glitter, and snowflake confetti. Close the lid tightly, and tie a tag with the party details around the jar.

Buried!

Fill a large bucket with ice. Hide small toys in the bucket. Give guests 30 seconds to search for treasures using a toy shovel to dig through the chill (don't forget the winter gloves!). Let them keep whatever they find.

Decorations

Hang paper snowflakes around the house and in the yard. Place cotton batting (available at fabric stores) around the house to look like snowdrifts.

Marianne J., age 13,
inspired a party that
brrrings a hint of
January to July!

Snowball Fight

Designate one girl on each team to be the first "snow girl." She will hold an empty bowl. All the other players hold small bowls full of marshmallows and stand in a circle with their backs toward the snow girl. On "Go," players

begin throwing the marshmallows toward the snow girl. The snow girl must try to catch as many pieces as possible in 30 seconds. Each girl gets a turn to be the snow girl. Whoever ends up catching the most marshmallows wins!

Snowless Snowmen

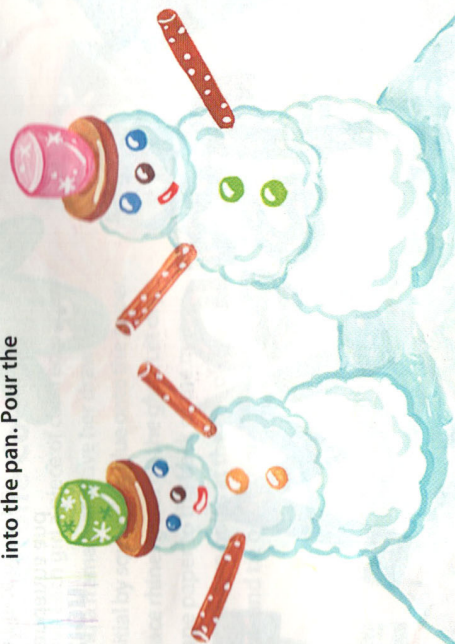
★ Create these cute treats at the party and give them to guests as party favors. First, ask an adult to help you melt 4 tablespoons butter and 4 cups mini marshmallows in a saucepan. Butter a 9-by-13-inch pan and pour 9 cups popped popcorn into the pan. Pour the

marshmallow mixture over the popcorn, using a spoon to coat evenly. Let the mixture cool slightly. Butter your hands and begin forming small popcorn balls. Use frosting to attach the balls to each other. Attach candy

features with frosting.

Polar Bear Punch

Fill a round cake pan halfway with water. Set small plastic animals, such as polar bears and penguins, in the water. Place in the freezer overnight. Pour blue Kool-Aid (made with carbonated water) into a punch bowl. Float the animal iceberg in the punch!

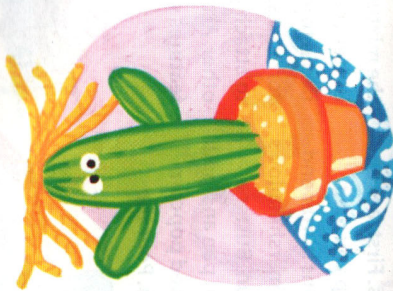


Wild, Wild West

We said "Yee-haw!" when we read the idea for a Western party from Mary E., age 12.

Invitation

Roll up a bandanna and tie it with a piece of twine. Attach a tag with the party details. Tell guests to wear their bandanna to the party.



Cactus Call

Make a cactus with character for a centerpiece. Use a tweezers to carefully glue googly eyes on the cactus. Add some yarn hair.

Line Up and Dance

Every cowgirl loves a good line dance! Divide into two groups. Take 10 minutes and create a new line dance. Then teach one another your new moves. Put on some music and have a good ol' fashioned hoedown!





Hot Potato Bar

Dish up an Old West favorite—baked potatoes! Set out toppings such as sour cream, shredded cheese, broccoli, bacon, and chili. Line up and top your taters!

Name Game

Get into the spirit of the Wild West by giving everyone a cowgirl moniker—her grandma's first name and a Western state (for example, Esther Montana).

Rhinestone Cowgirl

Give each girl a piece of colored paper and a frame mat. Have her draw her initial by squeezing glue onto the paper. Place rhinestones on the glue. Let dry. Tape paper to the back of the mat. Punch two holes at the top of the mat and tie on a string to hang.

Decorations

Tie bandannas together and hang them like a garland. Put a red-and-white-checked tablecloth on the dining table.

Absolutely Asia!

Aimee F., age 8, threw an Asian-themed party for her birthday. Here are some ways to have your own!



Decorations

Make paper chains using colorful origami paper. Hang them all around the party room.

Invitation

Write party details on the back of a piece of origami paper. Fold the paper as shown below.



Chopstick Drop

See who can handle chopsticks with ease! Fill a cup with cotton balls and place it at one end of a table. Place an empty cup at the other end. Each girl must move the cotton balls from one cup to the other—using only

chopsticks. Give each player one minute to move as many balls as she can without dropping any. If a ball is dropped, the player must put it back in the cup and try again. Whoever moves the most in one minute wins!





Creative Characters

Give each girl a square wood piece (available at craft stores). Paint the wood with acrylic paint. Let dry. Use a pencil to lightly sketch the Chinese character for friendship (see left). Trace over the pencil sketch with a permanent marker. Glue a magnet onto the back. Let dry.



Crazy Karaoke

Gather together and sing karaoke!



Sweet Sushi This twist on sushi is a sure hit. Wrap fruit leather around banana slices. Add candies for the center of the sushi.

Favors

Say good-bye to guests by giving them a Chinese take-out box (available at craft stores) full of fortune cookies. ★



Wild Summer

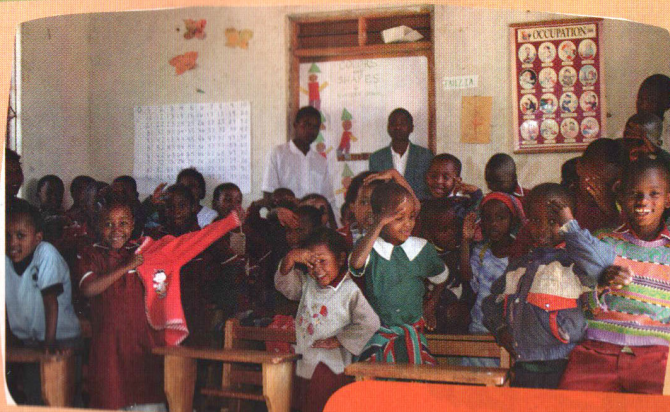
Living in Africa changed Emma K.'s world forever.

It was going to be an awesome summer. I was looking forward to dance camp, summer camp, and tons of fun with my friends.

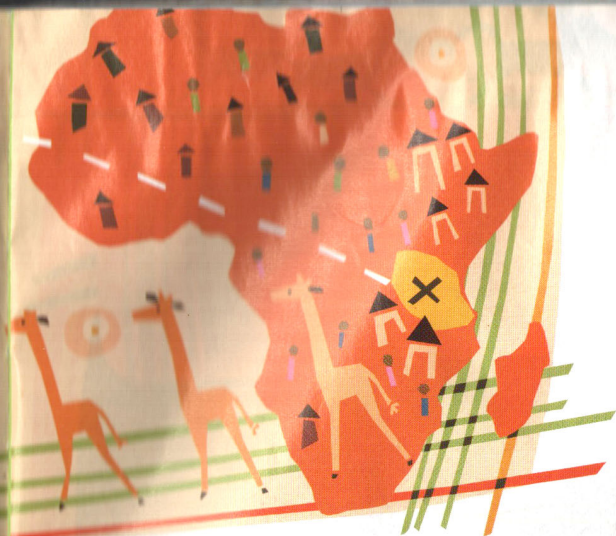
So when my parents announced that my family would spend part of the summer volunteering in Africa, I was not happy. Let's just say I was miserable.

I didn't know it then, but my six-week stay in Africa would change my life.

At first, the kids looked at me kind of funny. I have red hair, which is uncommon enough, but I also had braces. I must have looked so weird to them!



Working with the kids made me appreciate my own teachers.

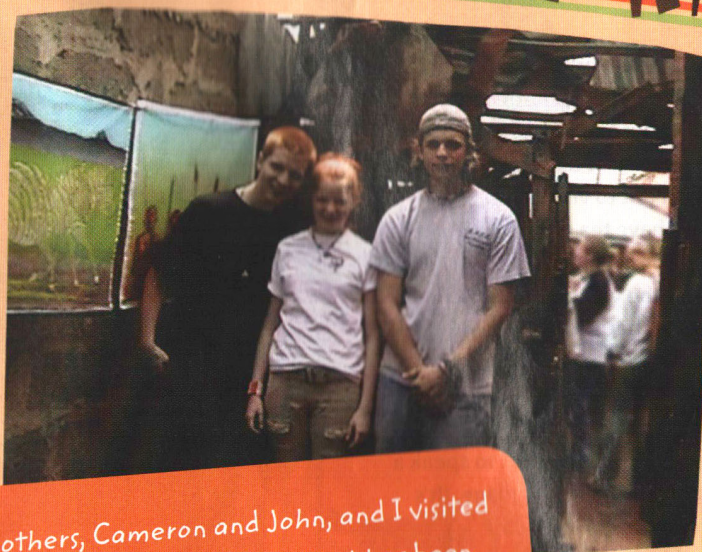


From our house in Georgia, it took 30 hours to get to Tanzania, a country in eastern Africa. (It's pronounced tan-zuh-NEE-uh.)

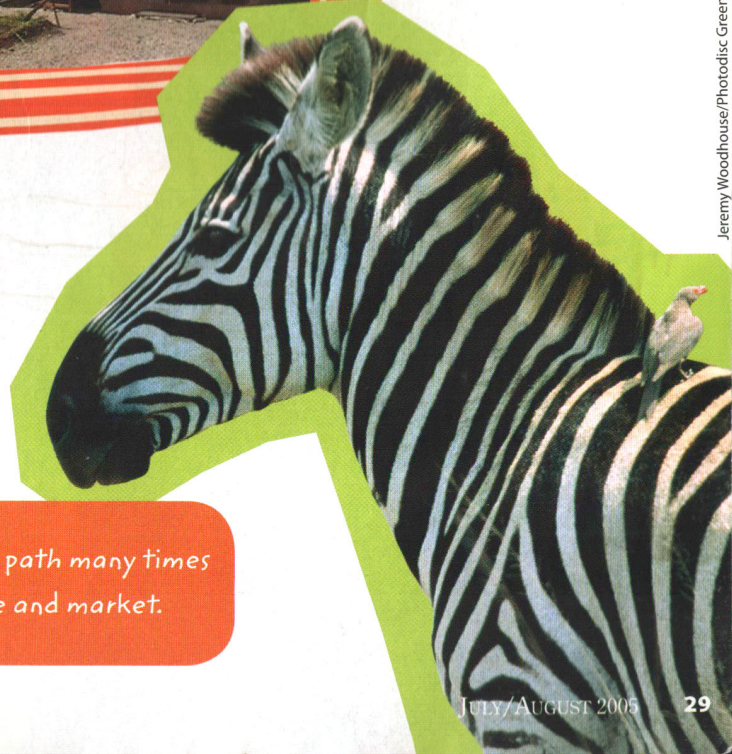
It was the longest trip I had ever taken. When we arrived, we moved into a house with other volunteers from our program. I was the youngest person there, and most of the rest of the volunteers were in their 20s and 30s. We all slept in bunk beds, usually four to a room. Our living conditions might not sound great, but actually, I felt like I was at camp. All of the volunteers were really nice and funny.

The volunteer program sent me to work at a school for orphans. The school had no plumbing or running water. It had few supplies like paper, pencils, or books. And in Tanzania, it's hard to find well-trained teachers, so I helped some five- and six-year-olds with basic English and math skills. I wasn't a teacher or anything, but seeing improvement in the kids was really rewarding.

My brothers, Cameron and John, and I visited a batik shop. Batik is fabric that has been dyed with a pattern or picture.



This is the house where all the volunteers stayed.



We traveled this path many times to the village and market.

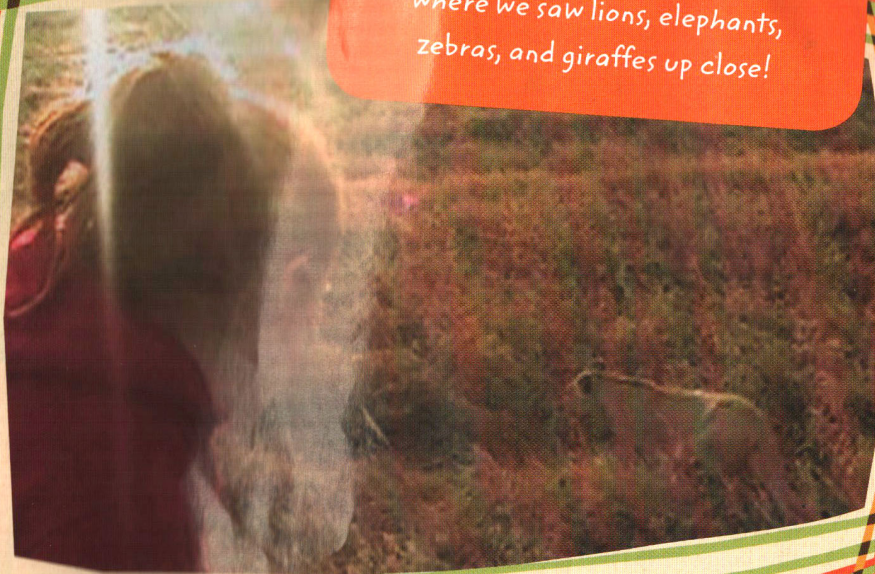


We worked in the mornings and had afternoons and weekends off to attend classes or go exploring.

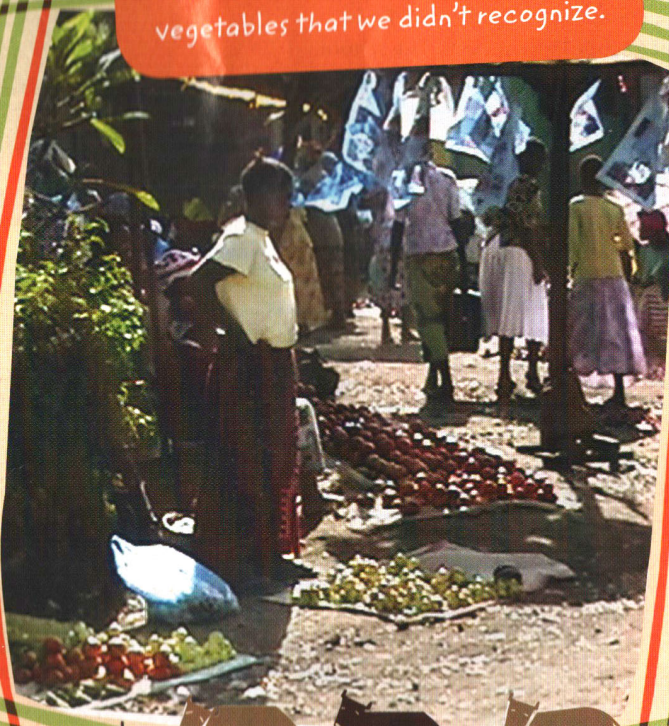
I got to visit a Masai tribal village and have tea with the village medicine woman in her mud hut. I also went to see the village's water source more than an hour's walk away. Back in my home village, I shopped in the market and ate traditional meals, which were served buffet style in an outdoor dining space. I even learned to speak a little Swahili, the local language. (It's pronounced swah-HEE-lee.)

Everything was so different from home. I didn't have a lot of time to learn the culture of this new place, but I felt like I made strong relationships with the people there. One day, as I was walking back to the house, a little girl whom I did not recognize ran up to me and said, "Emma, Emma!" and gave me a huge hug. That made me feel like I left at least a small footprint in the community.

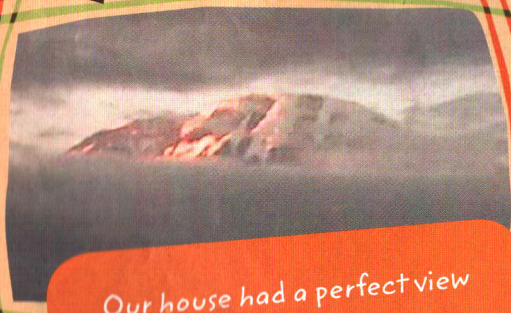
We took a camping safari in the Serengeti National Park, where we saw lions, elephants, zebras, and giraffes up close!

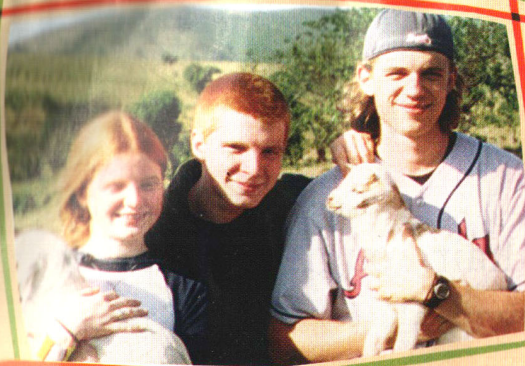


We shopped a lot in the local market. The produce is similar to what we eat in America, but we also saw some vegetables that we didn't recognize.

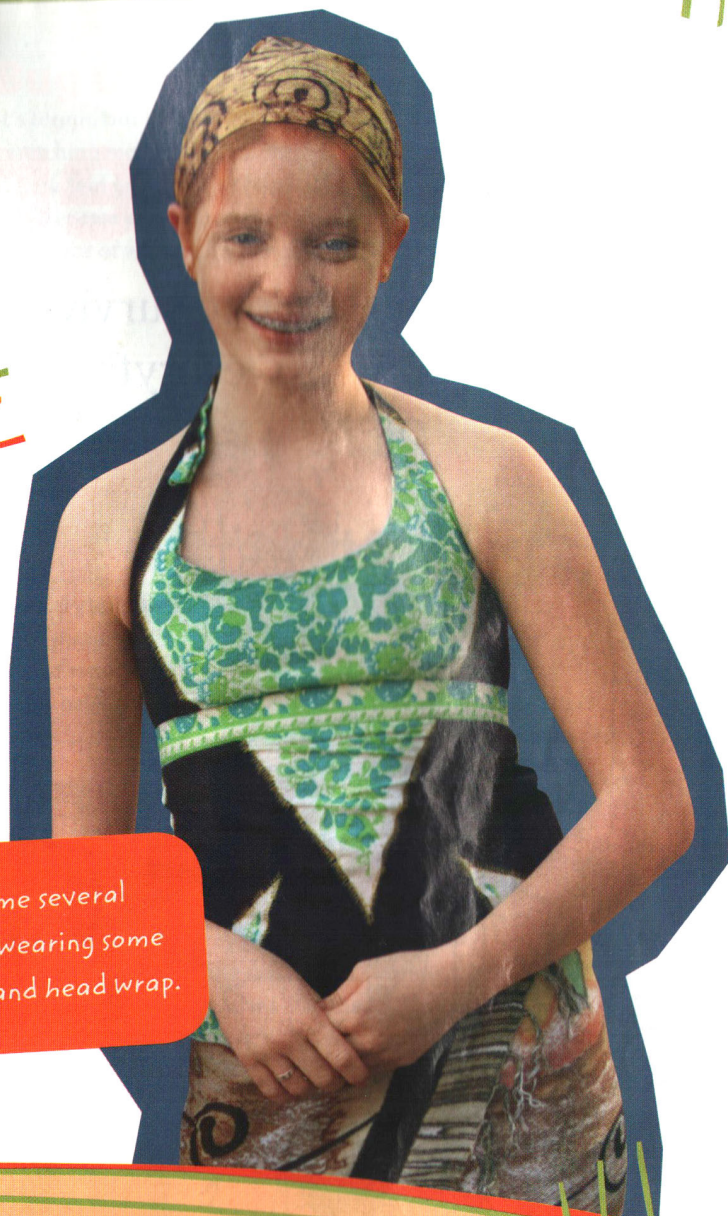


Our house had a perfect view of Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa.





The Masai people raise goats and cattle, and they live in mud huts. When my family visited a Masai village, we shared songs around a fire with the tribespeople.



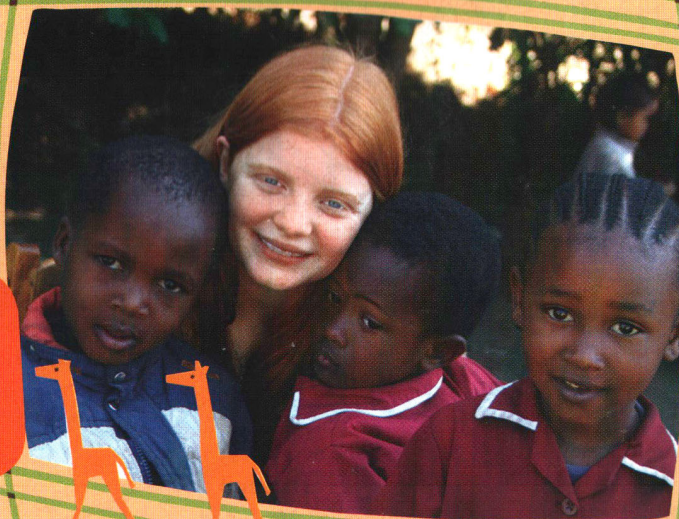
We brought home several batiks. Here I am wearing some of them as a skirt and head wrap.

Now that I'm home, I see my own world in a very different light. For example, when I want a glass of water in the middle of the night, I can just go downstairs to the kitchen, grab a glass, and drink as much clean water as I want. When I go back to bed, I say some prayers for all of the people of Tanzania who must walk miles every day for their water, and whose houses could fit in my kitchen.

I'm 14 now, and I'm stunned when I think about how some people my age spend more money on one outfit than a Tanzanian man makes in six months. And after seeing what life was like for the orphans, I realize just how lucky I am to be sheltered, fed, and loved.

For my summer in Africa and what it taught me, I can't help but think, *Thank you so much*. Or, as we say in Swahili, *ahsante sana*. ★

Living and working in Tanzania was a big change for me, but I was so happy there. I'll remember my trip for the rest of my life.



Summer Smarts

Use this guide to survive green hair, rough feet, and everything in between!

by Shannon Payette Seip

Hair Help

If humidity is making your hair frizz out, use a leave-in conditioner to tame your tresses. Also, spend a few

minutes at night brushing your hair—it helps to spread the natural oils from your scalp throughout your hair.

Sunny Skin

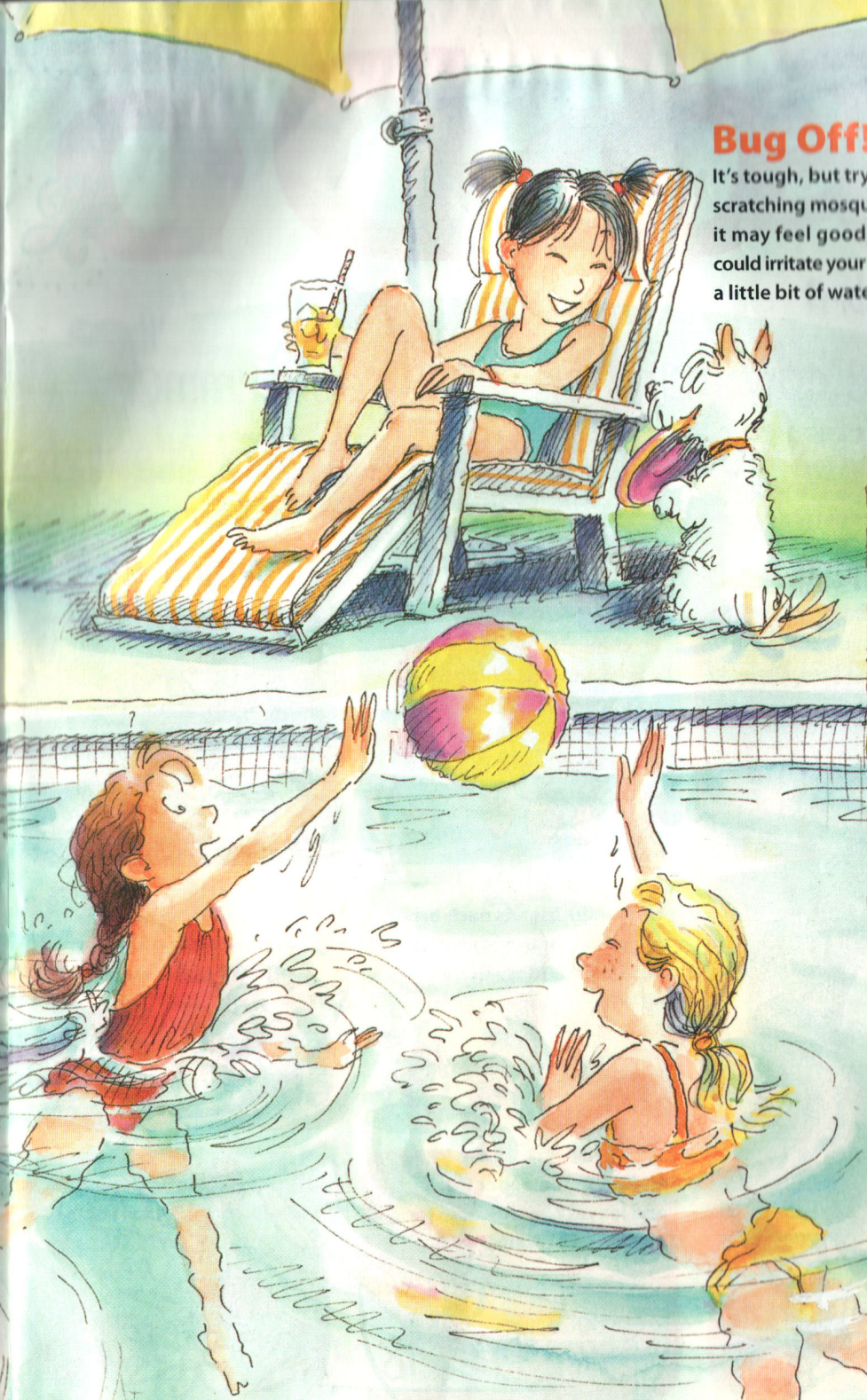
Always wear sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 15. Use waterproof sunscreen in the

pool, and reapply at least every 2 hours and after you get out of the water.

Twinkle Toes

Going barefoot can make your feet feel like tree bark. To smooth—and soothe—your feet, gently scrub a

pumice stone over trouble areas at the end of your shower. Afterward, rub lotion all over your feet.



Bug Off!

It's tough, but try to avoid scratching mosquito bites. While it may feel good, scratching could irritate your skin more. Mix a little bit of water with baking

soda until it's a thick paste. Dab it on your bites to relieve itching. If that doesn't work, use calamine lotion or put ice cubes in a towel and hold against your skin.

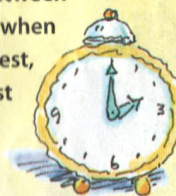
Swell Summer

These tips will help you stay healthy this summer:



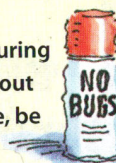
To relieve the pain of a sunburn, rub aloe vera gel onto your skin. Take cool showers, or place cool cloths on burned areas.

Avoid the outdoors between noon and 3 P.M. That's when the sun is at its strongest, and it's also the hottest time of the day.



Drink lots of water to help you stay hydrated and cool.

Mosquitoes bite most during evening hours. If you're out playing during that time, be sure to use bug spray.



Using your common sense will help you have the best summer ever! ★

Gross Green

Chemicals in swimming pools can sometimes turn blond hair green. To get rid of the green, try rinsing your hair with a mixture of 1 tablespoon lemon juice

and 2 quarts water each day after shampooing. Then rinse again with clear water. Some shampoos are also specially designed to get the green out.

To Do



See how many of these cool summer activities you can do before school starts!

Sunday

Michelle Kwan turns 25 on Thursday! Send your birthday wishes to her.
Michelle Kwan
c/o Proper Marketing Associates
39555 Orchard Hill Pl, Suite 150
Novi, MI 48375

3

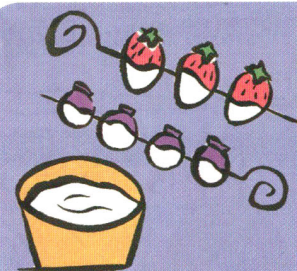
Monday

It's Independence Day. Make a red, white, and blue treat by putting strawberries and blueberries on skewers. Then dunk them in marshmallow dip.



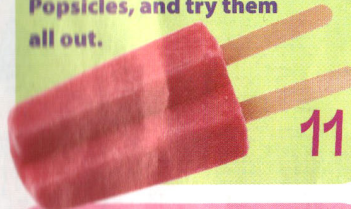
4

Tuesday

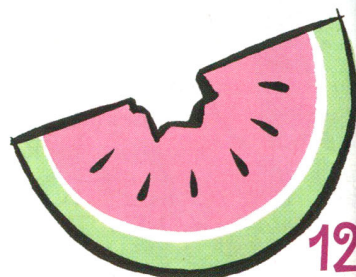


5

Have your friends each bring over a box of their favorite Popsicles, and try them all out.



11



12

Make a tissue paper flower and leave it on the table for your mom to find.

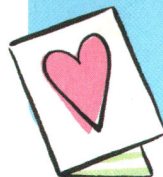


18



19

Celebrate Cousins Day on the 24th. Send a cousin who lives far away (or just down the street) a sweet card.



24/31

Concoct an icy-cool summer drink.



25

It's your favorite home designer's birthday! Don't forget to send a card!

Genevieve
c/o Move Lab
803 Washington St
New York, NY 10014

26

JULY

Today



Friday

Saturday

Find a shoe box and decorate it. Then use it to keep special summer tokens—**movie tickets, photos, and postcards**. Save them for AG's Scrapbook Poster.

1

Today is the first day of the Tour de France. Take a long bike ride with your family after dinner.



2



9

Wednesday

Thursday

Go to your local library and ask the librarian for her favorite summer read for girls.



6

Grab your dad after dinner and take a stroll around the block to celebrate Father-Daughter Take a Walk Together Day.



7

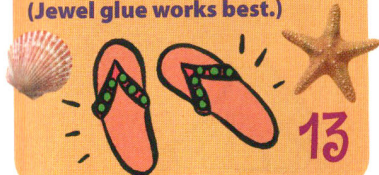


Why don't you use the whole length of your driveway to make a humongous hopscotch board?



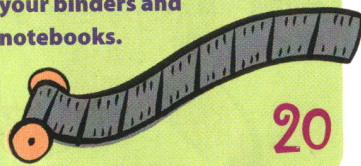
8

Liven up a pair of flip-flops by gluing on some sequins. (Jewel glue works best.)

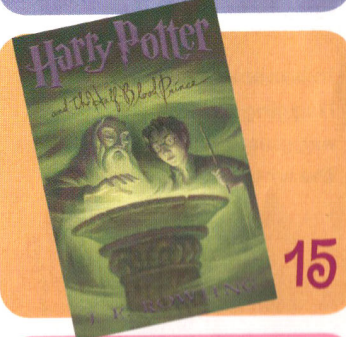


13

Take pictures of your pet. Use the cutest ones to decorate your binders and notebooks.



20

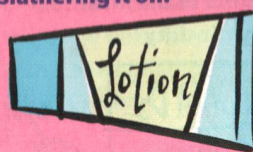


15

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince comes out today! Want to see J. K. Rowling's desk? Check it out at www.jkrowling.com.

16

For an instant chill, put your lotion in the fridge before slathering it on.



22

It's Hot Enough for Ya Day. Beat the heat by offering to wash the family car. You'll stay cool and your parents will be thrilled!



23

Enter to win a beach bag full of summer toys, accessories, books, and treats! Turn to page 2 for more info.

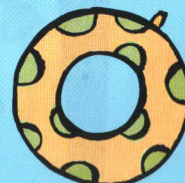


28



29

Head to the pool for a Marco Polo marathon.



30



To Do

AUGUST

Sunday



Don't forget to send in your entry for the Pet Dream Home contest on page 9.



7

In honor of International Nagging Day, try NOT nagging anyone for the whole day.

12

Why don't you set up a pink lemonade stand and donate the profits to the local Humane Society?



21

Monday

It's Girlfriends Day! Host a spa afternoon for your closest gal pals.



1

We challenge you to come up with 100 things to be happy about! Send a copy of your list to us at the address on page 2.



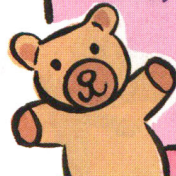
8

Pitch a tent in the backyard and have a family campout, complete with hot dogs and s'mores.



15

Celebrate Be an Angel Day by making everybody's beds today.



22

Put on your bathing suit, head out to the yard, and play lawn volleyball. Bump, set, spike!



29

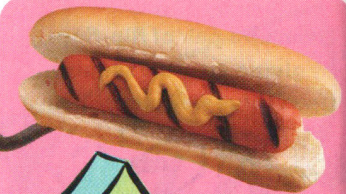
Tuesday

Plan your dream trip. Where would you go? What would you do? Who would you take?



2

9



16

Clean out your closet before school starts and donate clothes that don't fit to a local charity.

23

Gather your shoe box full of ticket stubs, photos, and trinkets from this summer and use them for AG's Scrapbook Poster.

30

T d a y



Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Help a friend at camp beat homesickness by sending a care package. Make sure to include a postcard from your hometown, hair elastics, and cute bandages!

3



4

Have a blast with the past. Dig out photo albums and home videos, and laugh at the funny things you did as a tot.



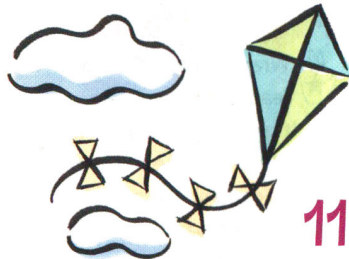
5



Need a change of pace? Stay in and play Monopoly. Vow to finish at least one game!



10



11

Are you a Raven fan? Send her some fan mail.

Raven
c/o Disney Channel
3800 W Alameda Ave
Burbank, CA 91505

12



It's Sand Castle Day. Head to your backyard sandbox for a sand castle-building extravaganza.



17

Make cool cubes. Freeze juice, Gatorade, or lemonade in ice-cube trays for a chilly treat.



18

Pamper yourself by painting your toenails in a summery shade of pink.



19

Gather your pals at the pool, and make up your own synchronized swimming routine.



20



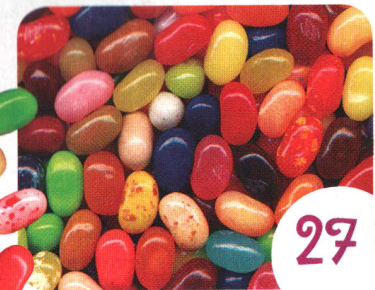
24

Give your skin a treat. Mix together one mashed banana with one teaspoon honey, and spread mixture onto your face. Rinse with water after 10 minutes.

25

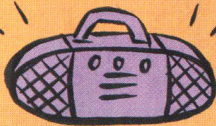
Be a Jelly Belly chef. Create a new flavor by eating two or more jelly bean flavors at the same time. (One lemon-lime + one orange juice = Citrus Crush.)

26



27

Play some fun music and set up a limbo competition for you and your friends. ★



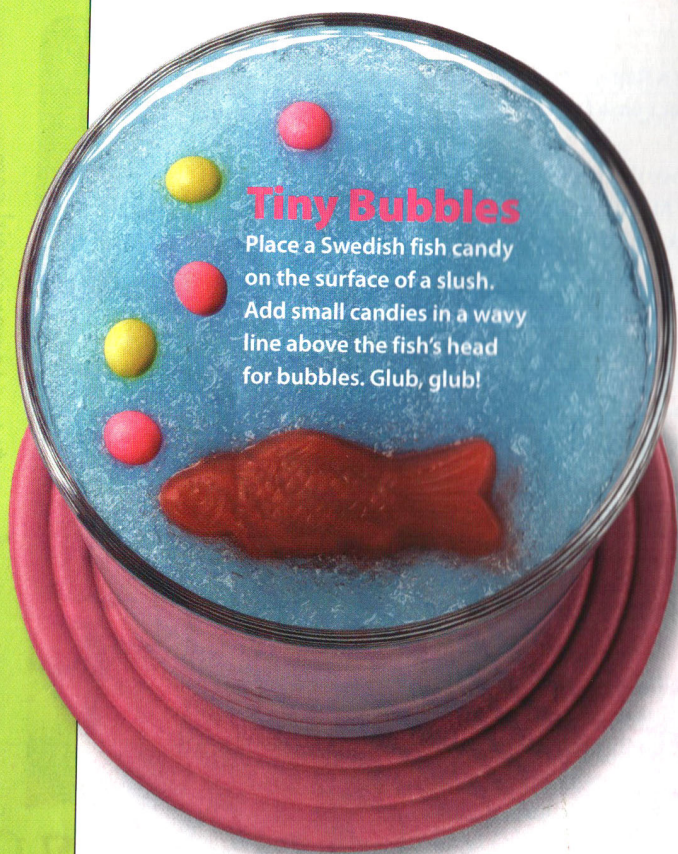
31



Top It Off!

by Shannon Payette Seip

Pep up plain glasses with these cute treats.



Tiny Bubbles

Place a Swedish fish candy on the surface of a slush. Add small candies in a wavy line above the fish's head for bubbles. Glub, glub!

Pretty Palm



Wrap a piece of yellow fruit leather around a straw. Ask an adult to help you cut a lime in half and scoop out the pulp with a spoon. Cut a zigzag shape around the peel with a clean pair of scissors. Wedge the lime onto the straw. Your summer sipper will stay cool in the shade!





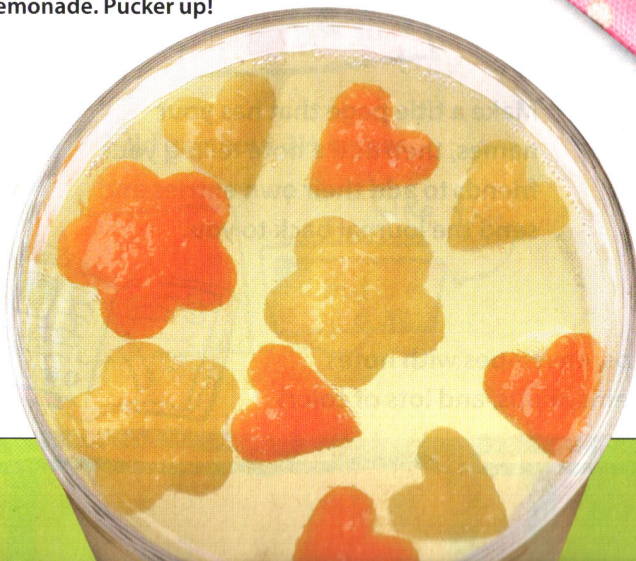
Lifesaver

Wrap a thin piece of red licorice around a pineapple slice (fresh pineapple works best). Freeze the pineapple for 5 minutes to make it more rigid before wrapping the licorice. Place on a bowl of Jell-O. Don't let it fall overboard!

Tart Hearts



Ask an adult to help you cut a lemon and an orange into quarters. Use a spoon to scoop out the pulp. Cut little hearts and flowers out of the peels with miniature cookie cutters or a clean pair of scissors. Float them on the surface of a cool drink, such as lemonade. Pucker up!

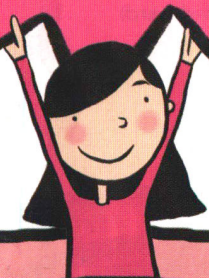


Floating Flower

Place half of a maraschino cherry in the center of the bottom of a glass, and arrange mandarin orange slices around the cherry for petals. Add water to cover the flower halfway. Put the glass in the freezer until the water is frozen solid. Pour a fizzy drink over the frozen flower. It's your own garden in a glass! ★

Beat the Blahs!

By Keri Smith



Banish boredom with these fun projects.

Make a "Pass It On" Journal

Share dreams, thoughts, and ideas with friends.



your best
friend,
June

1

Start with a blank journal.

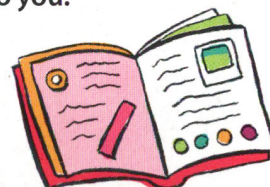
2

Decide who will use the journal. You might like to send it back and forth to just one person, or you can pass it on to many different friends.

3

Make a title page that has your names, then add a note telling your friends to add their own entries and send the journal back to you.

Add some fun extras to the journal—photos, envelopes with notes inside, stickers, stamps, lucky fortunes, poems, maps, and lots of color!



Make your own wallet

Carry your money in this funny holder.

You will need:



old comics
or magazines



clear
packing
tape



scissors



ruler

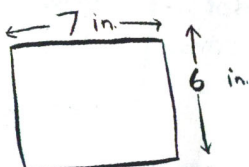


pencil



1

Take the comics or the magazine and find a section that you like. Cut out a 7-by-6-inch piece.



2

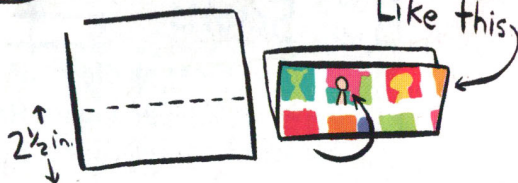
Cover both sides of the paper with strips of clear packing tape. Trim with scissors.

like
this



3

Fold up about 2½ inches.



4

Tape up the sides.



5

Put money inside.

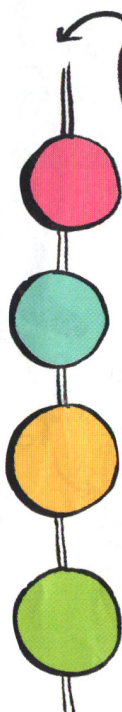


6

Fold in half. Put in your pocket or purse.



10 cool things to do with String & paper



1 Groovy Garland

Glue paper circles to a long piece of string for a cool garland. Or make strips of garland to hang from your door frame.

2 Cute Card

Draw a cute design, cut it out, and glue it to a folded piece of card stock. Glue down a string border for a finishing touch.



3 Cool Clothesline

Create a funky clothesline to hang your stories and artwork on.



4 Hidden Note



Wrap a note with layers of string for a friend to unwind.

5 Scrolls



Write fortunes on pieces of paper. Roll paper and tie. Have friends pick scrolls out of a hat.

6 Paper Lantern



1. Roll a piece of paper into a cylinder and tape or glue it.



2. Punch a hole on each side.



3. Slip string through holes and knot.



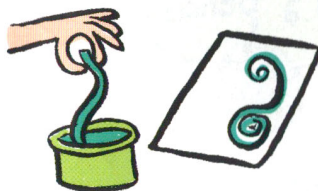
4. Decorate and hang lantern.

7 Wrap



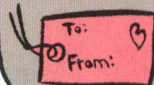
Decorate plain paper with stencils or stamps. Wrap a gift, using string to tie ends like a firecracker!

8 String Painting



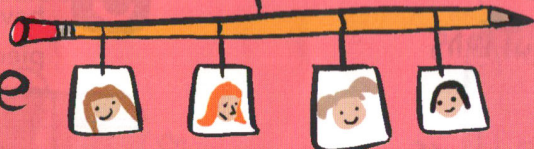
Lay newspaper under paper. Dip pieces of string into acrylic paint. Drag wet string across paper to make fun designs!

9 Tag



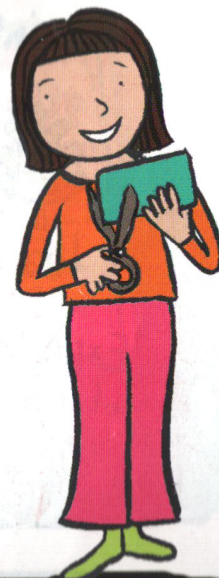
Fold a piece of card stock in half. Write a message. Punch a hole. Add string.

Mobile



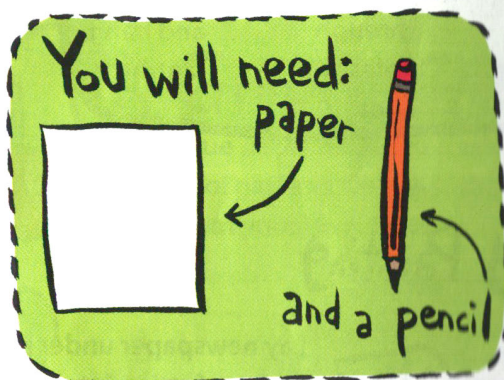
10

Make a mobile! Poke holes in the tops of friends' photos. Tie photos to a pencil with string. Hang the pencil.



Create a Pencil Rubbing Collection

You can take pencil rubbings from nearly any surface that has texture.



Think of certain themes to collect.

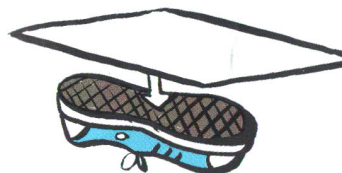
Some ideas:



Experiment! Take rubbings of everything in your world.

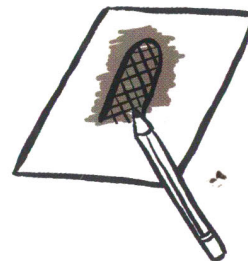
1

Lay the paper on the surface you want to rub.



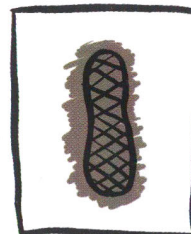
2

Rub the pencil quickly back and forth over the surface.

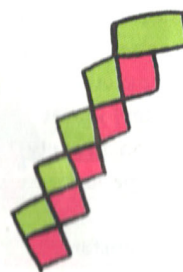
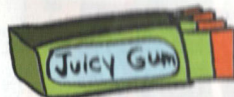


3

Voilà! Now you have a unique piece of art.

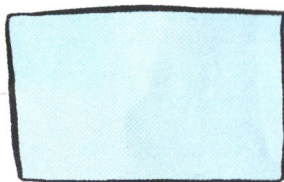


Fun with Gum-wrapper chains



Make a chain for decoration—or even for a necklace or bracelet!

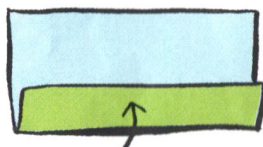
To make a chain:



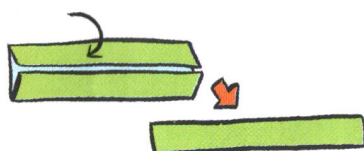
- 1 Open paper wrapper.



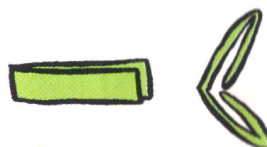
- 2 Fold in half and open up again.



- 3 Fold bottom up to middle crease.



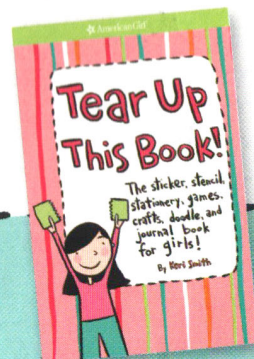
- 4 Fold top down to middle crease, then fold in half.



- 5 Fold in half lengthwise. Fold ends in half toward the middle.



- 6 Take two links. Slide the ends of one through the slots of the other. Add more links.



For more boredom busters, check out **Tear Up This Book!**, available in bookstores. ★

Get Started

First you will need to scan your artwork. You can have it scanned at a copy shop if you don't own a scanner. Use your home computer and inkjet printer to print your scans on a variety of specialty papers:

- * Iron-on transfers
- * Magnetic sheets
- * Postcards
- * Sticker paper



Kristin H.
Age 11, Missouri

Mail It

Make personalized address labels. Follow the printing instructions on the address-label package. You can also create stickers to make your

own line of greeting cards. Postcard-sized paper is available at office supply stores, so you can send postcards featuring the best new artist—you!



Laura G.
Age 12, Florida

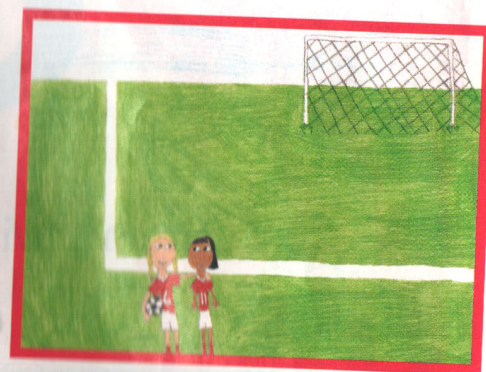
Wear It

 Make a logo using your own designs. Scan your artwork and bring it into a photo program on your home computer (most scanners and digital cameras come with a photo program). Size the image the way you want it. Follow the package instructions to print the image on the transfer paper. Ask an adult to help you iron the transfer onto a tank top or canvas purse.



Show Your St

Turn your artwork



Renee L.
Age 13, Florida

Give It

Check out the craft store for a variety of items that will hold your artwork and make great gifts. Look for:

- * Mugs
- * Buttons
- * Snow globes



yle!

into something you can use!



Micaela A.
Age 10, Texas

Stick It

Print your art on magnetic paper and hang it on the fridge. Look for printer-friendly sticker paper and place your designs on a notebook. ★



POP Quiz

by Shannon Payette Seip

Start summer with a quiz full of fun trivia!



- 1** In the book *Charlotte's Web*, Charlotte weaves three of the sayings below into her web. Circle them.



- 2** What is the name of this shoe?

platform

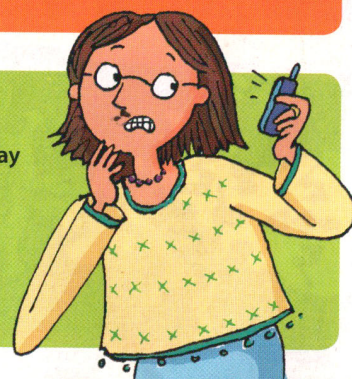
- 3** What kind of hairstyle does the British word "fringe" mean?

bangs



- 4** According to Miss Manners, what's the better thing to say when you want to end a phone call?

- a. "I think I hear my mother calling me."
b. "I won't keep you."



- 5** If you have paraskevidekatriophobia, what are you afraid of?

Friday the 13th

- 6** What color is Rover if you're on the playground?

red

- 7** What are the words that the campfire cookout treat "s'mores" is short for?

some more

8 Which of the following is not a ballet term?

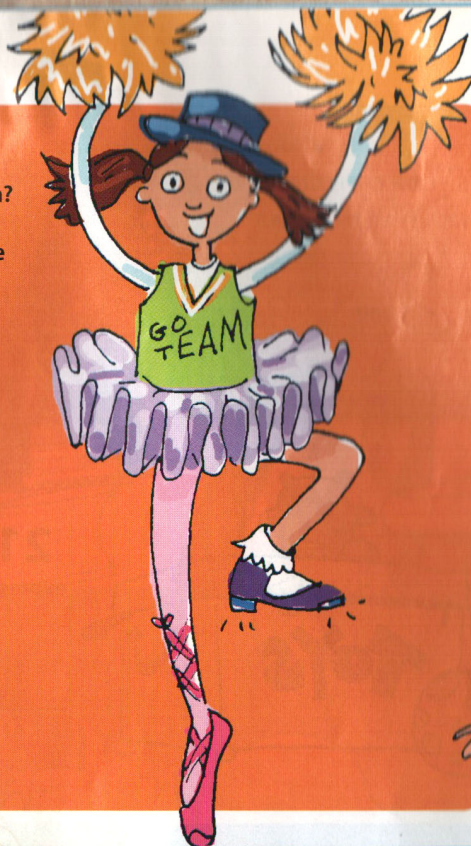
- a. Pirouette
- b. Jac du jour
- c. Rond de jombe
- d. Fish dive

9 Which is not a cheerleading move?

- a. Pike
- b. Herkey
- c. Bobby
- d. Double hook

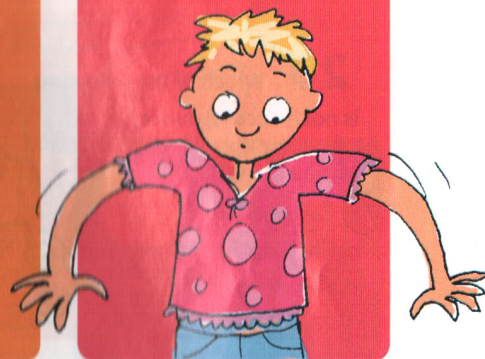
10 Which is not a tap-dance move?

- a. Riffle
- b. Paddle
- c. Shuffle
- d. Shiffle



11 True or false?
Before the 1920s, pink
was considered a color
for boys.

true



12 Which of these TV shows did NOT have real siblings on it?

- a. Full House
- b. Little House on the Prairie
- c. Family Ties
- d. Sister, Sister

13 Poodle skirts, pedal pushers, and penny loafers were popular fashion choices for which decade?

- a. 1920s
- b. 1930s
- c. 1940s
- d. 1950s

14 What's the most played board game in the U.S.?

Monopoly



15 Which came first—the surfboard or the snowboard?

Surfboard



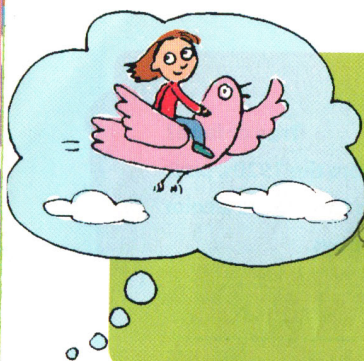
16 Circle the name that was NOT in the top 10 names for baby girls in 1900.

- a. Bertha
- b. Mary
- c. Henrietta
- d. Ruth
- e. Elizabeth

17 Circle the name that was NOT in the top 20 names for baby girls in 2000.

- a. Hannah
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Ashley
- d. Alexandra
- e. Taylor





18

How many dreams do you have each year? More than ...

- a. 200
- b. 365
- c. 500
- d. 1,000



19

Which pets are more popular in American households—dogs or cats?

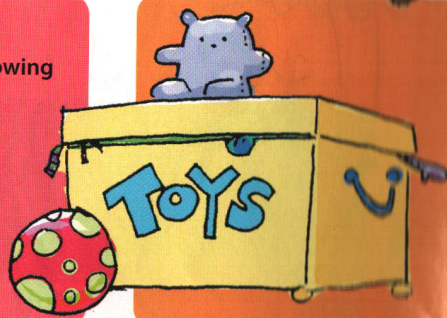
cats



20

Which of the following is not an actual dance?

- a. Roger Rabbit
- b. Cat's Meow
- c. The Monkey
- d. Bunny Hop



21

What toy's name comes from the Filipino expression meaning "come, come"?

yo-yo

What famous fictional family members do the following license plates represent?



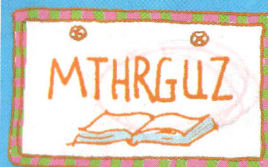
22

Uncle Sam



23

Cousin It



24

Mother Goose



25

Uncle Sam



26

Father Time

27

What are the siblings' names in *Spy Kids*?

Carmer and Juni

28

In the U.S., many families have salt and pepper shakers on the table. In Hungary, families have salt and what?

- a. Chili powder
- b. Paprika
- c. Cinnamon
- d. Lemon pepper



29

What movie costume sold for the most money at an auction?

- a. Harry Potter's school uniform
- b. Queen Amidala's gown
- c. Superman's suit
- d. Dorothy's blue-and-white gingham dress



Match these imaginary places with their books.

30

Narnia

31

Frell

32

Camazotz

33

Emerald City

a. *A Wrinkle in Time*

b. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

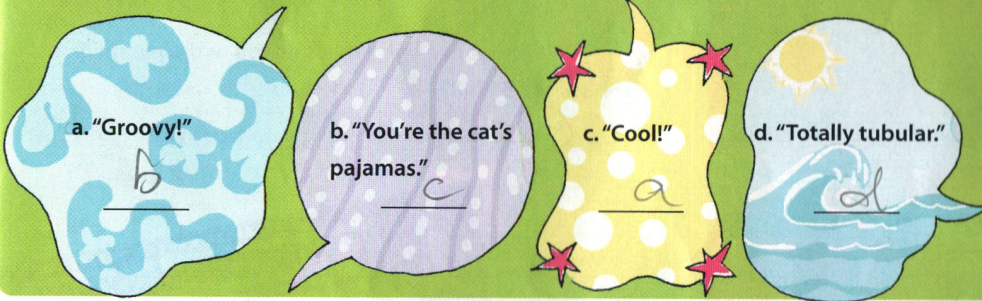
c. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

d. *Ella Enchanted*



34

Put these sayings in chronological order of when they became popular with American girls, starting with the earliest.

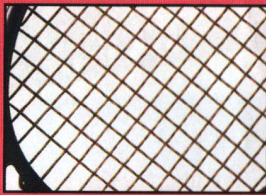


35

True or false?
In the 1800s, close girlfriends exchanged locks of hair.

True

Name these pieces of sporting equipment.



36

tennis racket



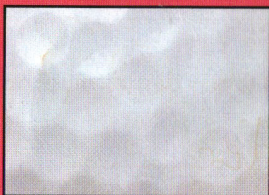
37

baseball



38

skate



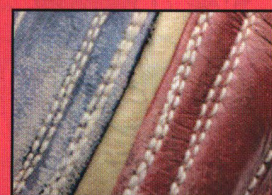
39

golf ball



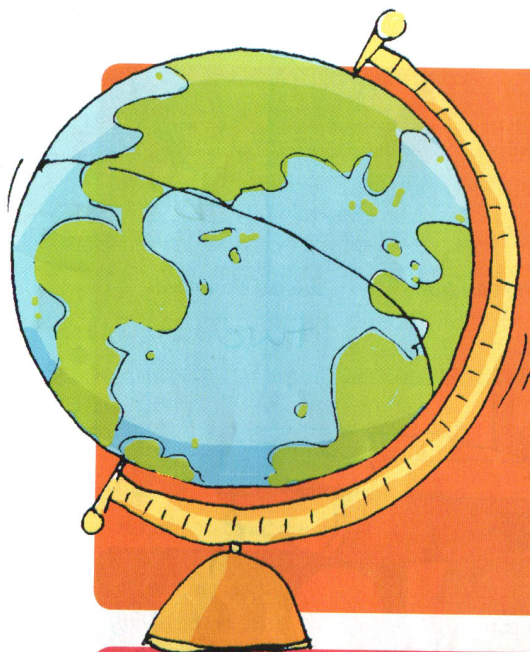
40

basketball



41

Bowling shoe



Match the school lunch fact to the country.

42

c

Most schools don't have cafeterias, so kids eat in their classrooms.

a. France

43

a

Students take nearly two hours to dine. A lunch usually includes an hors d'oeuvre, an entrée, a cheese course, and dessert.

b. Switzerland

44

b

After eating, students must bus their own dishes, wipe down tables, and sweep the floor.

c. Japan

45

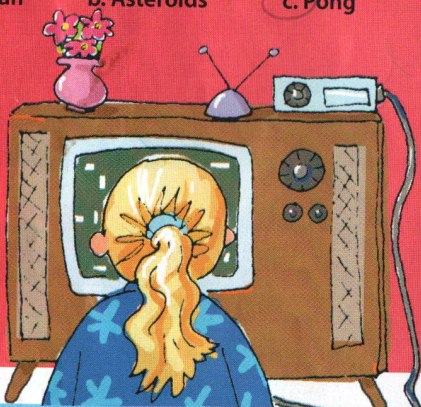
What was the first video game?

a. Pac-Man

b. Asteroids

c. Pong

d. Frogger



46

Without peeking, what's on top of the pyramid on the back of a \$1 bill?

Eye



47

In the comic strip *Peanuts*, who is Sally's brother?

Charlie Brown

48

Who is Lucy's brother?

Linus

49

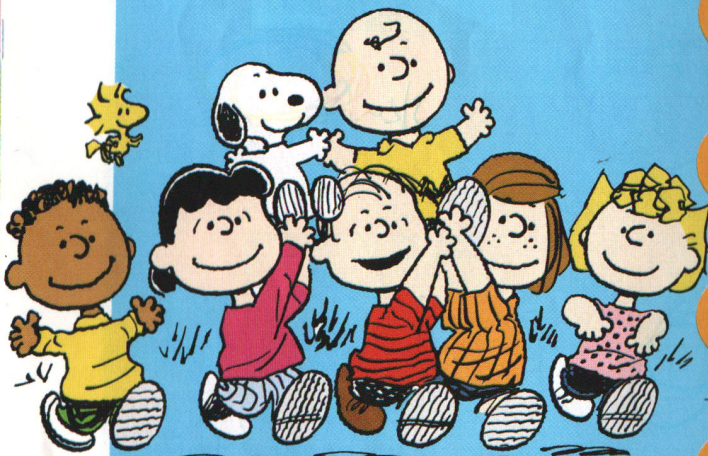
What *Peanuts* character loves to play classical music on the piano?

Schroeder

50

What does Marcie call Peppermint Patty?

Sir



PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Answers See how many you got right, then quiz a friend!

1. a, c, and d

2. Platform shoe

3. Bangs—no one seems to know how bangs got their name, but when they did become popular in the 1880s, they were waved, frizzed, or curly like corkscrews!

4. b



5. Friday the 13th

6. Red—"Red Rover, Red Rover, send (player's name) right over!"

7. "Some more"

8. b

9. c

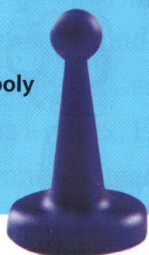
10. d

11. True—Pink is a washed-down version of red, which was considered a symbol of fire and strength. Blue was for girls, since it was seen as daintier.

12. c. *Full House*: Twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen played Michelle Tanner; *Little House on the Prairie*: Melissa Gilbert played Laura Ingalls while her brother Jonathan Gilbert played Willie Olsen; *Sister, Sister*: Tia Mowry played Tia Landry and twin sister Tamera played Tamera Campbell.

13. d

14. Monopoly



15. The modern snowboard didn't slide into existence until 1965. Hawaiians were "hanging ten" on surfboards as early as 400 A.D.

16. c

17. d

18. d

19. Cats—Americans have nearly 14 million more cats than dogs.

20. b

21. Yo-yo



22. Auntie Em—She was Dorothy's aunt in *The Wizard of Oz*.



23. Cousin Itt—Hairy Cousin Itt spoke in a high squeal in the show *The Addams Family*.



24. Mother Goose—These stories, rhymes, and riddles have entertained kids everywhere.



25. Uncle Sam—Patriotic Uncle Sam said "I Want You" on army posters during World War I.



26. Father Time—The elderly Father Time is usually seen holding "Baby New Year" and an hourglass, which represents the passing of time.

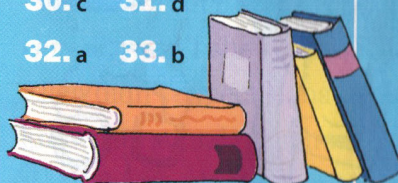
27. Carmen and Juni

28. b—Hungarian paprika, a spice, is considered the best paprika you can buy.

29. d—A New York real estate agent shelled out \$324,188 for the gingham dress!

30. c 31. d

32. a 33. b



34. b; c; a; d

35. True—Close friends exchanged hair because hair lasts forever!

36. Sports racket

37. Baseball



38. Ice skate



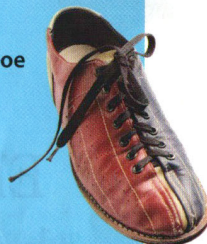
39. Golf ball



40. Basketball



41. Bowling shoe



42. c

43. a

44. b

45. c—People played this table tennis video game on their home TVs using dials for joysticks.

46. An eye

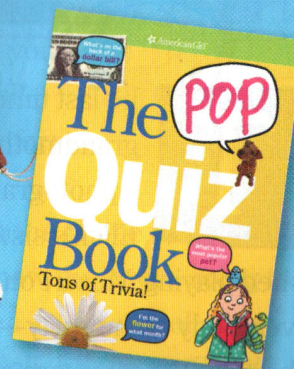


47. Charlie Brown

48. Linus

49. Schroeder

50. Sir ★

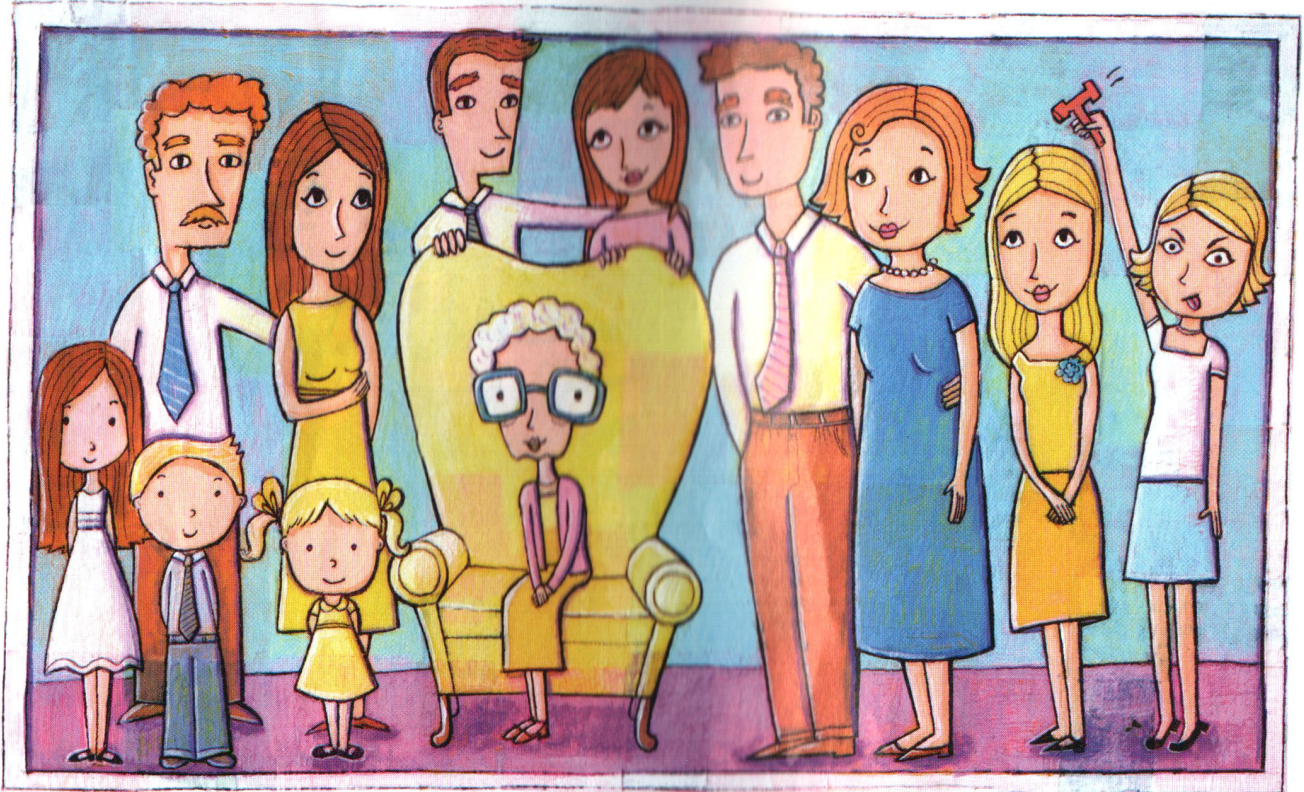


For more fun, check out *The Pop Quiz Book*, in stores now.

Picture Perfect (at Last)

by Kathleen O'Dell

Ellen wouldn't have made a face if she'd known that this family portrait would be her Nana's last.



The last time Ellen Wyatt saw her grandmother, Nana was posing for a photograph in the family room. Ellen's sister, Veronica, had just finished playing Mozart on the baby grand piano and everybody at the party—aunts, uncles, cousins—cheered. Veronica was going on a tour with the youth symphony orchestra as their big soloist. And she was on the front page of the local paper. "How about that?" beamed Mrs. Wyatt, holding

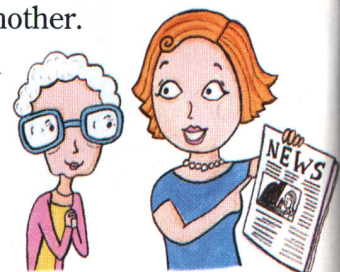
up the newspaper for Nana to see. "That's our Veronica right there."

"Oh!" said Nana, in a dry, fragile voice. "You must be a proud mama."

"Indeed I am," said Ellen's mother.

"Blah, blah, blah," Ellen said under her breath.

Although Ellen was the un-piano-playing, not-on-the-front-page little sister, she



believed family reunions should be equal-opportunity occasions. *It's not Veronica Day*, she thought. Ellen didn't have any accomplishments to show off, unless you counted bringing her social studies grade up to a C. But that, after all, wasn't what this day was for. Everyone also was celebrating Nana's recovery after serious surgery.

Ellen's Uncle Al got everyone close together for the family picture. Nana sat in an armchair in the middle, taking up a lot of space. When Veronica scooted in, she stood blocking Ellen from the camera's view.



"Do you mind?" Ellen asked.

Veronica rolled her eyes. "Calm down," she whispered in the bored, ultra-mature way that drove Ellen crazy.

Ellen nudged her with an elbow. "Move!" she said. But Veronica remained as unmovable as a telephone pole.

While Uncle Al was fooling with the tripod on his camera, Ellen briefly considered tackling Veronica to the ground. Then she noticed one of her cousin's toys on the floor. It was a red plastic hammer. As soon as she stooped to pick it up, Uncle Al got the camera's timer set and rushed in to take his place.

"One, two, three...smile!" cried Uncle Al.

Almost as a reflex, Ellen held up the hammer behind Veronica's head and made a snarky face.

Uncle Al set up the camera three more times and, in every photo, Ellen sneered and pretended to pound Veronica like a nail. Actually, Ellen might not ever have remembered that particular fight with Veronica again if not for what happened a few weeks later.

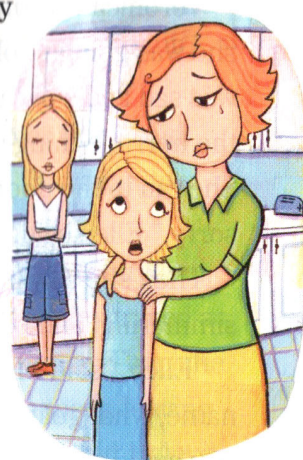


Ellen was looking through her dresser drawers for her bathing suit when she heard a terrible noise. She stopped. Were those Veronica's sobs echoing from the kitchen? Breathless, Ellen ran in.

"Honey," said Mrs. Wyatt to Ellen, wiping away tears of her own, "Nana died."

Ellen sort of froze. Even though Nana had been very ill, wasn't she supposed to be getting better? Ellen didn't expect Nana to die. Ever. She never had known an actual person who'd died.

All the words she might have said about Nana disappeared. The only picture Ellen had in her mind was Nana in their family room, smaller than she'd ever been, swallowed up by the overstuffed chair. Ellen could not cry. She felt only an awful stillness, the same blank shock you first experience when you fall down and hit your head—before the pain starts.



Soon Ellen's mom was on the phone with Uncle Al, figuring out how they were going to arrange Nana's funeral. Ellen sat on a stool, eavesdropping as they divided up all the chores. That's when Mrs. Wyatt volunteered to get the film developed from the family reunion so that they could show everyone the last pictures taken of Nana.

Ellen wasn't thinking of the plastic hammer or the faces she'd made. It wasn't until she saw the way her mother marched up the walkway with the yellow packet of photos in her hand that Ellen suddenly remembered.

Angeline Wyatt!" she said. "Veronica is not to blame for ruining the pictures. These," she shouted, waving the packet, "were not about you and your silly fight with Veronica. These were the last pictures of Nana we will ever have. The last pictures of *my*



Veronica was tinkling over some Chopin thing she was going to play at Nana's funeral. The song was sad and slow and cloudy, and Ellen could feel the horrible thing she'd done settle down like fog. She ran to the door and waited for it to open. "I'm sorry," Ellen said. "The pictures..."

Then she saw her mother's face, red-eyed and simmering, and backed up a step.

"Ellen," said Mrs. Wyatt, "why? In heaven's name, what got into you? Out of all the occasions you could choose to be rotten, you chose this one. And you didn't even have the courtesy to tell me."

"But I didn't remember until just now! I'm sorry." Ellen studied her mother for some sign of forgiveness. Instead, Mrs. Wyatt pressed her lips tightly together. "Well, it's Veronica's fault, too!" Ellen said louder. "Really, Mom. She was being a total brat."

Her mother took in a sharp breath. "Ellen

mother!" She slapped the photos into Ellen's hand.

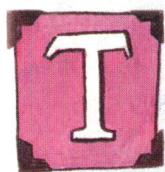
Ellen, speechless, shook her head from side to side. She tried to hand the photos back, but her mother held up her hands. "If you'll excuse me," said Mrs. Wyatt, as formal as a stranger, "I have to order flowers."

Ellen watched her mother walk away. She stood for a moment, blinking, before taking the pictures to her room. She sat on her bed and slid the first photo out with her thumb. After studying herself—tongue sticking out, nose wrinkled, the red plastic hammer threatening Veronica's head—she looked at Nana. Her chair was as big as a throne. Her legs barely touched the floor. She was making the sweetest, quietest smile. It would have been a perfect picture, if not for Ellen.

As show-off as Veronica was, she at least had spent her last day with Nana playing the piano,

making her happy, watching her clap. And even today, Veronica practiced her gloomy funeral march, hoping to honor Nana at her memorial.

Ellen fell on her pillow, feeling like the meanest, stupidest girl in the history of granddaughters. "Why can't they make time machines?" she said out loud. She'd love to go back and take the picture all over again. This time she'd be perfect. In fact, she would sit by Nana all day and be quiet and maybe just listen to the clink of her rings as she clapped. Or breathe in that sachet scent of hers and watch her tiny gold-dollar earrings shudder in the light when she laughed.



he next morning the phone rang. "Ellen!" shouted Veronica. "Call for you!"

Ellen tried to ignore the look of disgust Veronica gave her as she handed over the phone. "It's your friend," said Veronica.

Ellen turned her back and cupped the receiver. "Hullo," she said.

"Ellen? You sound like you're about to cry," Haley said.

Ellen waited until Veronica left to tell all about the dreadful Nana picture. "I did it because I was mad," she said. "And now everyone's mad at me!"

"You're lucky," Haley said.

"Why?" asked Ellen.



"Because you've got a best friend who has a computer and a scanner...and Photoshop!"

Ellen closed her eyes tightly and smiled. "You're the best," she said.

"Come on over," said Haley.

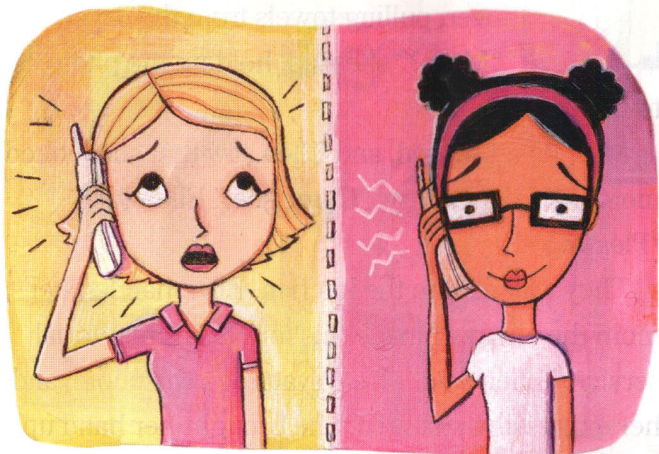
At Haley's house, Ellen wondered why she hadn't thought of Photoshop herself. Haley's dad had every kind of computer gadget you could imagine. It was funny seeing Haley sitting in her dad's big swivel chair at the oversized desk. "Step into my office," she said, smiling.

Ellen handed over the Nana photo. "Ick," said Haley. "This is bad." Ellen sighed. "But definitely fixable," said Haley.

Ellen watched as Haley scanned the picture and looked at it on the computer screen. Haley traced a dotted line around Ellen and the hammer. Then she pushed a button and made them disappear, leaving a white blotch in their place. "Hmmm," said Haley. "Why don't we cover this spot with something else?"

Ellen bit her thumbnail as Haley searched for photos of grandfather clocks and big TVs and Japanese screens. One by one, she pasted these images over the spot where Ellen used to be in the picture. Finally, a big jungle plant did the trick.

"Done," said Haley, leaning back in her chair.



"It looks kind of weird," said Ellen.

"I'm sorry," said Haley. "I can't think of anything else to try."

Ellen rested her chin in her hands and focused on Nana. With her small feet dangling, Nana almost looked as if she were floating. That gave Ellen an idea. "Hey, can we cut Nana from the picture instead?"

"Sure," said Haley, "but why would you do that?"

"I want to put her somewhere else," said Ellen.

"Maybe...in the sky?"

Haley's eyes widened. "Yeah. Why not?" She brought up a beautiful blue sky with clouds and, in the center, pasted Nana in her chair.

Ellen hugged herself. "Oh, Nana," she said.

"Look how cute she is," said Haley.

"But now she looks kind of lonely," said Ellen.

What could she give Nana to keep her company? Both girls were silent. Then Ellen had an idea. "A pipe!" she said. "Let's give her a pipe."

Haley gazed at Ellen doubtfully. "You're kidding," she said.

"No, no," said Ellen. "Nana always said that she missed my grandfather's pipe. After he died, that is. She missed the smell of it."

"We don't want to have her smoking a pipe, do we?" asked Haley.

"No!" said Ellen with a shudder. "Put it in the sky."

For the next hour, Ellen and Haley searched for other things to put in the picture. Ellen put in hollyhocks, Nana's favorite flower, and a tomato plant, something Nana always had in her garden. They even found some miniature books of Shakespeare plays and a photo that looked like her old yellow cat, Tink.

But something was missing. Ellen looked at the picture and felt a tug of guilt. She knew what



she should put there, but she didn't want to. So she sat with herself until she got up the strength to say it out loud.

"Baby grand piano," Ellen said. "Nana loved to hear Veronica play."

Haley gave Ellen a sly look. "Really?"

"I have to," Ellen shrugged. "This is about Nana."

"Your wish is my command," said Haley.

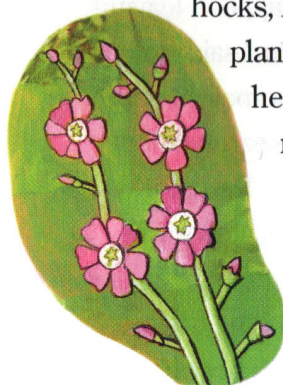
Ellen had to admit, Veronica's piano looked just right. The suggestion of music was what the picture needed to make Nana's world complete. "Print it," she said with a satisfied smile.



That night, Ellen walked from room to room until she found her mother bent over, pulling towels from the dryer. "Mom?" she said, holding the photo to her chest.

Mrs. Wyatt turned, and Ellen saw that she looked more tired than angry. "Come see," Ellen said. "Please?"

They walked into the kitchen. Ellen handed her mom the photo. "I made this for Nana's memorial service," Ellen said. Mrs. Wyatt took the photo, and her expression changed. She brought her hand up



to her mouth and stared. Her smile had a trace of sadness in it. "Oh, Ellen," she said softly. She sat down at the kitchen table. "Come here," she said, patting the chair next to her.

Ellen sat and watched her mother trace the outline of Nana with her finger. "Oh, my gosh!" said Mrs. Wyatt, grinning. "Is this Grandpa's pipe?"

"Yes," Ellen said, smiling. "Remember how Nana said she actually missed the smell?"

"Not when he was alive," Mrs. Wyatt said. "She hated pipes with a passion."

"But after he left..." Ellen started.

"You're right," said Mrs. Wyatt, leaning her cheek on her hand. "I'd forgotten she'd said that."

"Did you see these?" Ellen asked. "I thought you might like that I put in the little Shakespeares."

"Oh, those lovely books."

"I know they were your favorite thing to look through when you were a kid," said Ellen.

"Because of the illustrations," said Mrs. Wyatt. "You remembered that?"

"Uh-huh," said Ellen.

"And the hollyhocks," said Mrs. Wyatt. "Those grew around Nana's house when she was a kid. But how did you know?"



"Because I listened," Ellen said simply.

Ellen's mother sat back and folded her arms. "You did listen, didn't you?" she said, quietly. "And you took a lot of things to heart." She paused. "I'm sorry I yelled at you," she said. "I was upset. About the pictures, but mostly about Nana. You know?"

"I know," said Ellen. But she was glad to hear her mother say it out loud. "Apology accepted."

Ellen and her mother looked at the photo again for a moment. Then they reached out and crushed each other in a hug. ★



Meet the Author



Kathleen O'Dell

I ruined plenty of family photos when I was a kid.

I liked making faces and being silly. My father caught on to this and used to warn me to cut out the goofy stuff right before the picture was snapped. As I wrote this story, it was fun imagining what it would be like to ruin a photo under the worst possible circumstances. It could have happened to me!

Brainwaves

activities and puzzles

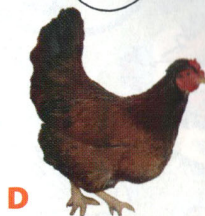
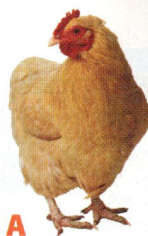
Chicken Feed

Look at this scene and find at least 20 things that start with a *ch*.



Photo Fun

Lauren H., age 13, from Idaho, says she looks like her pet chicken. "We're alike because she's got bed head, brown eyes, and long, dark lashes." Circle Lauren's pet, Rosemary.



Send a **print** of your fun or funny photo to **Brain Waves** and maybe we'll use it in a **puzzle**. Write to the address on **page 2**. Sorry, photos can't be returned.

Bird Brain

Can you fit 10 chicks into the 9 cages below? Thanks to Melissa J., age 11, New York, for this puzzle inspiration.



t e n c h i c k s



Chicken Little?

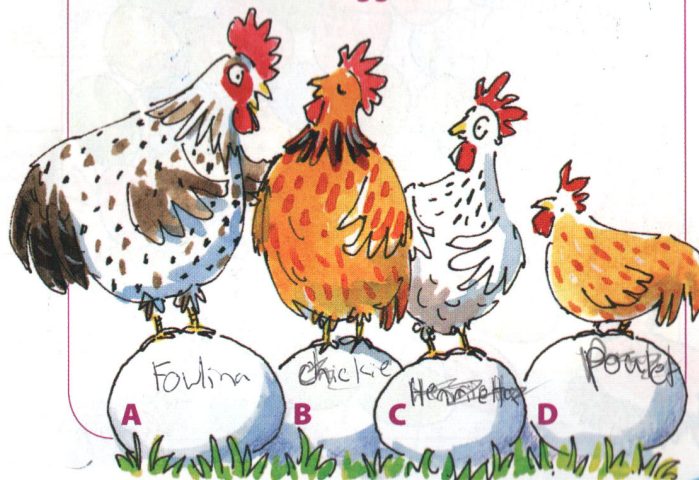
These chickens went to the big bird competition at the fair. Read the judges' notes, then write each hen's name beneath her.

Chickie is bigger than Henrietta.

Chickie is not the biggest.

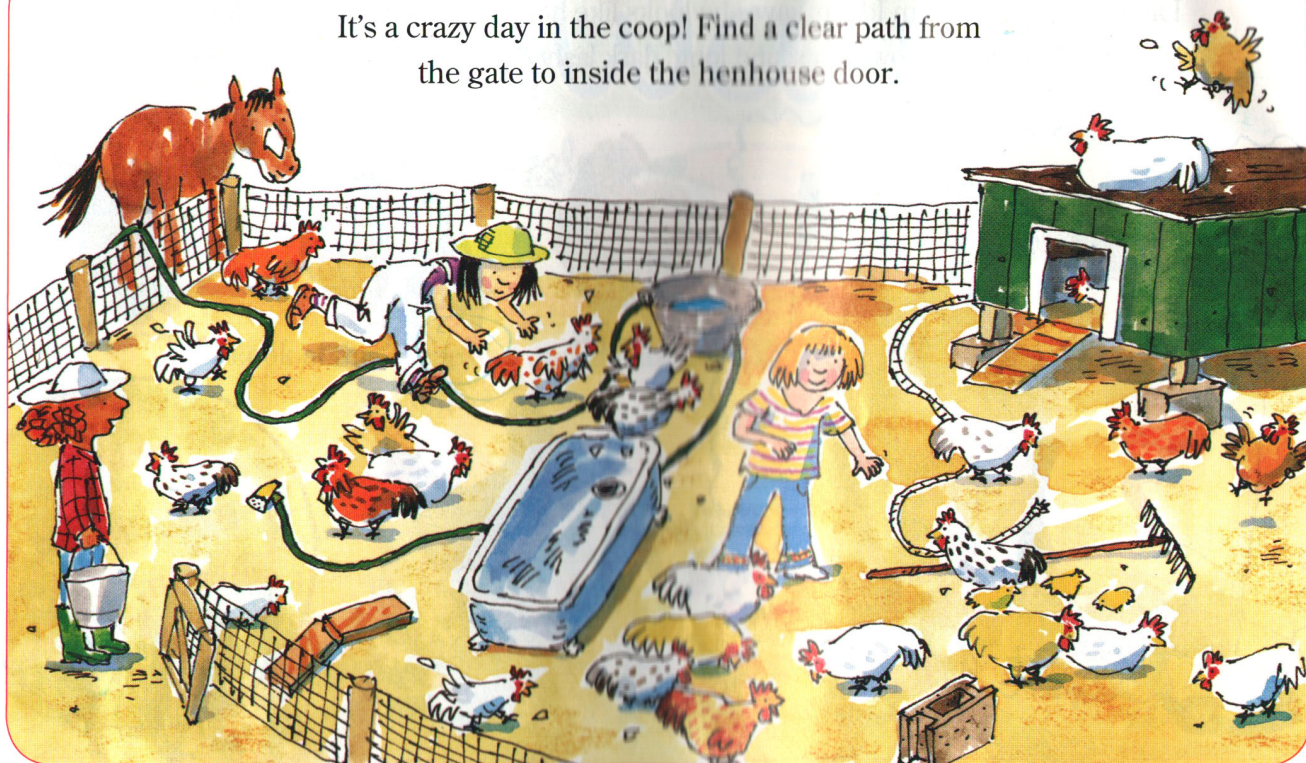
Henrietta is smaller than Fowlina.

Henrietta is bigger than Poulet.



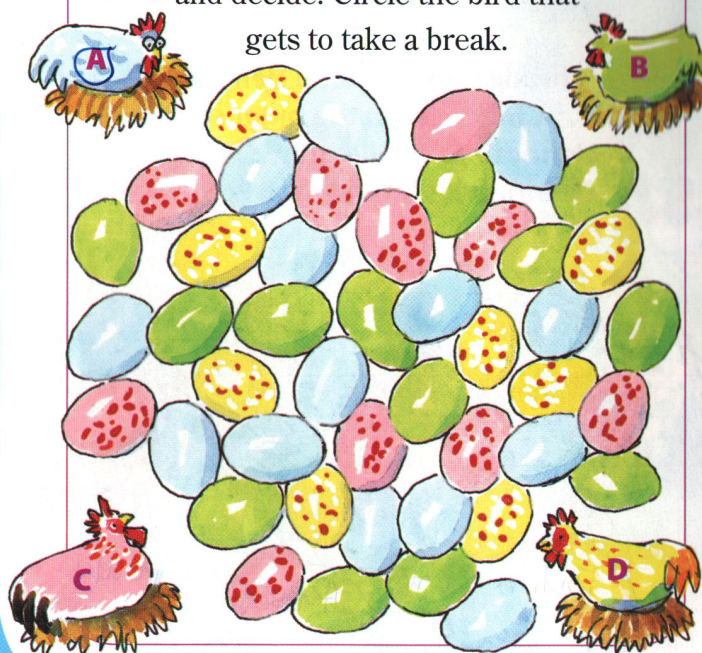
Fowl Play

It's a crazy day in the coop! Find a clear path from the gate to inside the henhouse door.



Scrambled Eggs

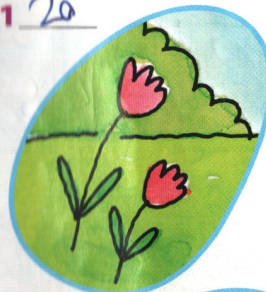
The hen who laid the most eggs this week gets a vacation. You have one minute to count and decide. Circle the bird that gets to take a break.



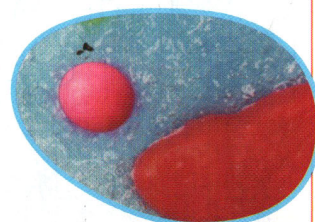
Art Sleuth

Search the pages of this issue to find where each snippet of the photo or illustration shown below came from. Write down where you found it.

1 20



2 38



3 27





Laffateria

Why did the dinosaur cross the road?



Because chickens weren't invented yet.

Shannon F.
Age 11, Illinois

Why did the sock cross the road?



Because the chicken was wearing it.

Lauren G.
Age 8, California

Why did the chicken cross the road, turn around, and come back?



He was a dirty double-crosser.

Kora N.
Age 10, Virginia

Why did the turkey cross the road?



It was the chicken's day off.

Haley H.
Age 9, New York

Why did the wolf cross the road?



He craved chicken for dinner.

Amelia B.
Age 11, Wisconsin

Why did the gum cross the road?



It was stuck to the chicken's foot.

Alyssa K.
Age 12, Wisconsin

Why did the duck cross the road?



The chicken was on vacation.

Sarah G.
Age 9, New York

Why did the turkey cross the road?



To prove he wasn't chicken.

Charlotte S.
Age 13, Michigan

Funny Business

Send your best joke to Brain Waves! Write to the address on page 2. Include your name, birth date, school photo, and signature.

Why did the chicken cross the road?



Can You Do It?

Don't chicken out from trying these fun challenges!

Chicken Lips

See how many times you can quickly repeat this tongue twister without messing up.

A chatty chicken chef chirps as she shaves cheddar cheese slices in the cramped kitchen.

I repeated this tongue twister _____ times without making a mistake.



Funky Chicken

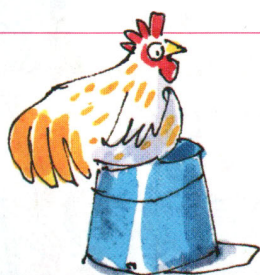
You and a friend each need play dough, toothpicks, and tinfoil. Using just these materials, see who can shape the funniest chicken. Add another ingredient, such as feathers, and try again.

Chicken Run

Place a box (the coop) in each corner of an open yard. Position a player (the chicken) at each box. On "Go!," the first player to hop on one foot and touch the coop on the opposite corner of the yard wins. Don't crash in the middle!



Answer Box



Moniker appears on page 25.

Buzzword

1. page 20; 2. page 38; 3. page 27

Art Sleuth

deserved break!

Chicken "A" gets to take a well-

Scrambled Eggs



Fowl Play

d. Poulet

a. Fowlina; b. Chickie; c. Henrietta;

Chicken Little?

T E N C H I C K S

Bird Brain

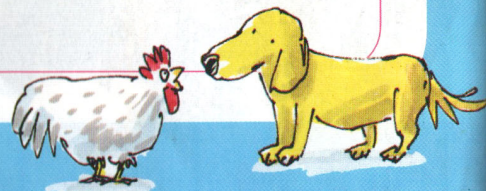


Letter B

Photo Fun

Chris; choir; (ice) chest.
chips; chocolate cake; chopsticks;
chimp; chipmunk; Chinese food;
cherry tree; Chihuahua; chimes;
cheerleader; cheeseburgers; chef;
checkerboard; checkers; checks;
chaise; chameleon; chauffeur;
chain; chalk; chalkboard; chair;

Chicken Feed



HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I have a very good friend. But when we do something together, she always wants everything her way. If she doesn't get what she wants, she storms off and I am the one who has to say sorry. What should I do?

Friend Trouble

Stand up for yourself. It's not fair for your friend to *always* get her way.

Next time, calmly say, "We did it your way the last time. It's my turn to pick what we do." If she gets mad, let her storm off. Then wait. Your friend may realize she was wrong and say she's sorry. If not? Tell her how you feel—but do *not* apologize. Then really think about your friendship with this bossy girl. Remember, it's better to have a few really good friendships than a lot of bad ones.



Dear American Girl,

My mom won't let me go to the movies alone with my friends. I think that she does not trust me, but I'm confused because I didn't do anything to lose her trust. What should I do or say?

Confused in Chicago



You and your mom need to talk. She might just be worried about your safety. Find out her concerns and see if you can come up with a plan. Maybe you can bring a cell phone with you so that you could call if there was a problem. Or maybe your mom could shop nearby while you go to a theater in the same mall. Act calm and mature, and Mom will be more likely to agree to a plan. But be prepared—she may still say no.



Dear American Girl,

I am a very messy eater. I try to mind my manners and not dribble pizza sauce down my shirt, but it doesn't work. Do you have any suggestions?

Messy Manners

Really concentrate on what you're doing. If you're talking, laughing,

or squirming in your seat while you eat, you're more likely to make a mess. So, one thing at a time. If it's your turn to talk, set down your fork while you do. If you sit up straight, you won't be leaning over the plate getting food on yourself. Slowing down while you eat will help you stay clean, too.



Dear American Girl,

Whenever I go to a party, we end up playing "Truth or Dare" and get really crazy. Someone almost always gets hurt, physically or emotionally. I hate it!

Not a Party Animal

Speak up. You could say, "Let's do something else. The last time we played 'Truth or Dare,' there were a lot of hurt feelings." Then offer some ideas of different games you could play. Chances are, some of the other girls will agree with you. But if you are the only one who doesn't want to play, sit it out. Plan ahead and bring a DVD or video game to keep you busy while the others play. Don't ever do something that you think will hurt you just to go along with your friends.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I caught my mom snooping in my diary! It has my crushes, problems, wishes, thoughts, and all that stuff. What should I do?

My Life Is Mine.

Tell your mom you saw her reading your diary, and let her know how it made you feel. You need to be honest with her. And she needs to be honest with you. Why did she do it? Does she have a reason not to trust you or think you may be getting into trouble? Talk about it. Let her know that you'll tell her if you have problems. Remind her that she can ask you about what's going on in your life—she doesn't need to snoop to find out. Then try to make some rules about privacy you can both agree on.



Dear American Girl,

My friend is a tiny bit of a racist. She's really fun to be around and everything, but it bothers me. disappointed

This is a serious problem. Making racist comments or jokes is not O.K., and you need to say so. If you stay quiet, your friend will think you



agree with her, so it's really important for you to say something. You can say "I disagree with that" or "I don't think that's funny." Be prepared, because she may get embarrassed and try to laugh it off. She may even get angry and try to make you feel bad for putting her on the spot. Either way, you need to speak your mind about this. You may not change how she thinks, but at least she'll know where you stand, and you'll know you did the right thing.



Dear American Girl,

My sister and I just don't get along. We both really want to be friendly with each other, but one of us always does something wrong. How can we be more connected?

sad sister

It's great that you both want to be closer! One way to connect is to find something to do together that isn't competitive. Maybe you can take a bike ride or go to the pool. Rent a funny movie or make cookies together. Also, you can each make a list of what you like best about being sisters. Share them. If you get in a little fight, you can always look back at those lists to remind yourselves how you really feel about each other. Once you start having more fun together, it will be easier to keep the peace.



Advice from You

"If someone teases you about your glasses, pretend that your glasses are picture frames around your pretty eyes. That should help you feel better."

Allison N.

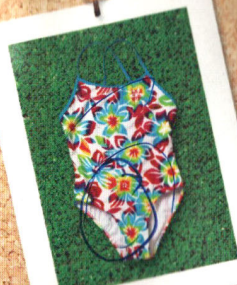
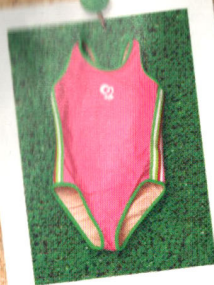
Age 11, Indiana

Need advice? Got advice? Write: Help!

★ American Girl magazine™

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

We had so many cute bathing suits to choose from for this issue! Which style do you like the best?



Go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine" to vote for your favorite.

The girls had a lot of fun playing all of the games from "Get Wet!"



Here's an interesting fact: Makenzie S., on page 7, is a competitive baton twirler! She is even a member of the U.S. National team.

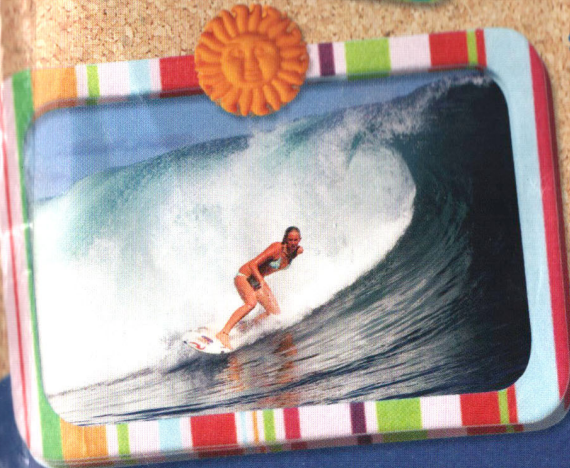


Behind the Scenes

The summer days of sun, sand, and surf are back at *American Girl!*



Surf's up for Bethany H. Since we last saw Bethany in the pages of AG, she's been a busy girl. She took first and second place in the first season of Hawaii's National Scholastic Surfing Association competition. Way to go, Bethany!



Check out more of our design-a-surfboard contest entries by going to americangirl.com and clicking on "Magazine." Hang Ten!



Show You Care

Make a friend feel better when she's going through tough times.

Tricky Treats

Girls like you share their most creative Halloween costumes.

American Girl

Coming up in the
September/October issue

For more fun, go to
americangirl.com and
click on "Magazine."
Get "To Do Today"
ideas and more!

Happily Ever After

See the winners of our fairy tale short-story contest!

School Style

Cute and simple back-to-school ideas to try

Make the Grade

Tips to make your school projects the best they can be

A+ Great job!

Teacher Troubles

Advice on how to deal with tough teachers

